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To Senator Bousset and Members of the Iowa Legislature,

I am writing to express strong support for Iowa's 260E New Jobs Training Program and to urge you to oppose any proposal that would eliminate or significantly weaken this critical workforce tool.

Since 1983, 260E has helped Iowa businesses hire and train workers for high-demand jobs in every region of the state. Between 2014 and 2024 alone, the program supported \$300 million in training for 40,000 new hires—an average investment of \$7,500 per worker. These dollars do more than strengthen businesses; they strengthen people. Workers gain skills that lead to advancement, stability, and long-term career success, creating a stronger and more resilient workforce for Iowa.

260E is fiscally responsible. It is funded through withholding taxes from new jobs, making it self-sustaining and scalable with Iowa's economy rather than dependent on annual appropriations. This structure delivers exceptional return on investment for taxpayers while supporting job creation and economic growth.

ALMACO has used the 260E program for more than ten years. DMACC has partnered directly with us to design customized, hands-on training that meets our skill needs. As our workforce grew, we needed help to train our new employees to build our customized ag equipment - we don't have the same resources as larger businesses in the area, and our business, as well as our employees, benefited immensely from the direction and support of DMACC and the 260E program.

Importantly, 260E is not a standalone program. It anchors Iowa's broader workforce ecosystem, supporting companion initiatives like 260F, WTED, and other college-employer partnerships that keep Iowans trained, employed, and earning locally. The administrative allocation—19.5%—is not overhead; it is the capacity that allows colleges to design training, maintain compliance, collaborate with economic developers, and respond quickly to industry needs.

Replacing 260E with a limited training fund that excludes bonding and focuses only on global companies would significantly reduce Iowa's workforce training capacity. It would leave small and midsize employers—who make up the backbone of our state's economy—without the tools they need to grow, innovate, and hire.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to preserve and strengthen the 260E New Jobs Training Program. Iowa's employers, workers, and communities depend on it.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to Iowa's economic future.

Sincerely,

Ellen Hines  
Director of Workplace Experience  
ALMACO