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Date: March 3, 2026

To: Members of the Iowa Legislature

Re: Support for 260E New Jobs Training Program, oppose changes in HSB 755 and SF 2301

Dear Representative Lundgren:

On behalf of Cascade Lumber & Manufacturing Company in Cascade, I am writing to express strong support for Iowa's 260E New Jobs Training Program and to respectfully ask that you refrain from changing the funding mechanism that enables Iowa's community colleges to partner with employers on critical workforce training and expansion.

Cascade Manufacturing Co needs the 260E New Jobs Training Program to keep our 73 year old, third-generation, family-owned manufacturing legacy thriving in Iowa by developing the skilled workforce required to stay competitive and grow.

For employers like ours, workforce challenges are practical and immediate. Hiring and expanding in Iowa depends on our ability to train people quickly, safely, and consistently. The 260E program helps meet that need through a locally delivered, public-private partnership tied directly to job creation. This program has helped employees—many who never saw themselves as leaders—grow into confident and impactful members of our leadership team at Cascade.

The program works because community colleges can help finance training up front and deliver it in close partnership with employers. Working with our local community college has been seamless; they take on much of the heavy lifting that makes these training initiatives possible and removes unnecessary friction. The statistics don't lie – A new report by Axios shows residents are fleeing Iowa at one of the highest rates in the country, with Iowa ranked as the seventh most “outbound” state in the country between 2024-2025. If the Legislature removes or restricts the funding mechanism that enables this model, Iowa risks weakening one of the most effective tools available to support business growth and to help Iowans secure better-paying, long-term careers.

We support efforts to modernize 260E and improve accountability, but the core structure must remain intact so the program can continue delivering proven results across our state.

Please oppose the provisions in HSB 755 and SF 2301 that would change or eliminate the 260E funding mechanism, and help preserve this successful workforce partnership model.

Thank you for your service and your consideration.

Joe Noonan, Director of Operations

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