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Dear Chair Chamberlain and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

Thank you for your work crafting the education omnibus bill (SF3818). I am writing you today to share with you how important it is to have industrial arts in our high schools. I am a second generation member of a family of machinists and I am first generation small business owner of our family machine shop, NTM Inc. Woman owned and small business, we serve the military and manufacturers with our products and services. We have employees that have come right from high school and are still employed at NTM today with a tenure of 25 years. When these young men were in school back in the early 90's they had the opportunity to participate in a skills program in high school, learning about metal working.

As an employer I am struggling to employ workers with some knowledge of metal working. If high schools had a curriculum to teach about metrology, basic machining, and metal working, NTM and countless other small machine shops would be employing these students. With experienced machinists retiring there is a shortage in the labor market. Manufacturing and advancing technology in machining needs to be introduced at the high school level to expose our young people of the possible careers in the machine trades. To understand that manufacturing is the backbone to the products we enjoy in everyday life. And how manufacturing helps our military and helps keep our military safe.

Thank you for your time,

Barbara Dorumsgaard  
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