



April 8, 2024

Senator Jennifer McEwen
Chair, Senate Labor committee
95 University Ave. W.
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3217
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair McEwen:

On behalf of the over 12,000 construction men and women members of the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters (NCSRCC) in Minnesota, I write to express our support for the funding of the Rise Up Center. NCSRCC represents pile drivers, millwrights, carpenters, interior systems carpenters, and industrial workers throughout Minnesota.

The Rise Up Center training hub would provide an opportunity for individuals from diverse and under-privileged communities to learn construction skills as part of a preapprenticeship. Their skills would create a highly desirable employee for contractors looking to sponsor them into our apprenticeship programs. More and more contractors are looking to hire employees from the communities where their work is being performed. Furthermore, communities and their businesses stand to benefit from their residents prospering from great employment opportunities.

Apprentices employed by our contractors enjoy a middle-class salary, full health and dental benefits, and a defined benefit and defined contribution pension upon retirement. Creating this opportunity would provide workers with lifelong careers in construction and allow them to provide for their families.

NCSRCC urges you to support the funding of this exciting opportunity and project. We are eager to see what Rise Up will offer surrounding communities and the construction industry in the future. This growing workforce could potentially pave new pathways by building the communities they live.

Sincerely,

Richard Kolodziejewski
Director of Government Relations
North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters