

SF2255 – Hoover Elementary on Behalf of STARBASE Minnesota – Letter of Opposition

Dear Committee,

I am writing to express my serious concern regarding the Senate "Delete All" Amendment to Senate Bill 2255 (SF2255) and its devastating impact on the STARBASE program, a critical resource for STEM education in Minnesota.

This amendment eliminates the \$500,000 in annual funding that STARBASE relies on to provide essential STEM education to our students. While a portion of this funding supports staffing for onsite programs, the majority directly funds the STEM kits that reach 438 schools and approximately 35,000 students across our state.

The consequences of this funding loss will be significant:

- **Loss of STEM Kits:** Schools will no longer have access to the hands-on, engaging STEM kits that STARBASE provides, limiting their ability to deliver effective STEM instruction.
- **Reduced Onsite Programming:** Vital onsite programs that provide immersive STEM experiences for students will be curtailed due to insufficient staffing.

STARBASE plays a crucial role in fostering an interest in STEM among Minnesota youth, providing them with the tools and experiences necessary to succeed in a rapidly evolving, technology-driven world. Eliminating its funding will deprive thousands of students of these valuable opportunities.

I urge you to **reject** the "Delete All" Amendment to SF2255 and ensure that STARBASE receives the funding it needs to continue its vital work. Protecting this funding is an investment in the future of our students and the future of Minnesota.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Matthew Thompson

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