



1409 Progress Parkway, Eveleth, MN 55734

SF2255 – Laurentian Elementary – Letter of Support for STARBASE

To Whom It May Concern,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Angie Williams, and I serve as the principal of Laurentian Elementary in the Rock Ridge School District. I'm writing to express our strong support for continued funding of the STARBASE program and to oppose the deletion of STARBASE funding in the current Senate Finance Committee's Delete-All Amendment to SF2255.

STARBASE has provided our 5th-grade students with an exceptional hands-on STEM learning experience. The opportunity for our students to engage in real-world applications of science, technology, engineering, and math has been both inspiring and educational. It has not only enhanced their understanding of critical concepts but also increased their enthusiasm for STEM careers.

For schools like ours—especially in greater Minnesota—STARBASE bridges the gap between classroom learning and real-world STEM opportunities. The kits and programming provided through STARBASE allow us to offer a level of STEM instruction and engagement that we simply cannot replicate with local resources alone.

The potential loss of funding, and with it, the loss of STEM kits and access to on-site programming, would be a significant step backward for equitable STEM education across Minnesota. Our students deserve access to quality, hands-on learning regardless of geography, and STARBASE has been a vital part of that effort.

I respectfully urge you to restore funding for STARBASE in SF2255 and continue to invest in this impactful program that serves over 35,000 Minnesota students annually. Our students—and the future of Minnesota's workforce—depend on it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Angie Williams

