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April 8, 2025

Senator Kunesh, Chair  
Senate Education Finance Committee Members  
3209 Minnesota Senate Bldg  
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: SF2255

Dear Chair Kunesh and Members:

My name is Shelly Pierson Evans and I am the Executive Director at North Shore Community School (NSCS).

**As you consider SF2255, I want to call your attention to the proposed cuts to STARBASE. These cuts impact programs that support student learning and opportunities for STEM activities at STARBASE and in the classroom through kits.**

Our students have attended STARBASE in Northern Minnesota for the past seven years, and this experience is invaluable. As a Rural community in outstate MN, our students do not have access to high-end science and technology activities presented by knowledgeable instructors in the way they do with STARBASE. It is a rarity for our rural students to experience this comprehensive and immersive STEM training. Our students learn about the Mission, then spend time diving into planning, computer aided design, 3-D printing of their designs, real-world budgeting experiences, and more. Through these activities, students are working as a team to achieve the challenges set before them, and their growth carries through the rest of the year.

**As you consider cuts to the budget, we respectfully urge you to protect state funding for STARBASE. Our students benefit from this well-designed and expertfully delivered program, one that is much needed for the students in Northern Minnesota and our rural communities.**

Sincerely,

*Shelly Pierson Evans*

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