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The Honorable Ann H. Rest
Chair of the Senate Tax Committee
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Capitol, Room 328
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for SF 519 (Sen. Hauschild)

Dear Chair Rest:

On behalf of Delta Air Lines, I am writing to express our support for SF 519, which would provide an important tool to grow the aviation and aerospace industry in the State of Minnesota

Across the globe there is a critical shortage of aircraft maintenance technicians who hold an FAA issued Airframe & Powerplant (A&P) license. It is estimated that over the next 20 years, more than 690,000 new licensed technicians are needed to meet the global demand which includes fleet operators and providers of maintenance, repair, and overhaul services. With the current and historical numbers of technicians currently employed or enrolled in school, the industry is only prepared to fill approximately 60% of the expected demand. For Delta Air Lines alone, which has our second largest Maintenance and Technical Operations facility in the world located at Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport (MSP), that means that over the next 10 years we will have a shortage of over 5,000 positions if we don't increase our reach to a larger base of potential talent.

Delta Air Lines currently partners with FAA approved 147 schools at Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC) and Lake Superior College and are in the early stages of partnering with St. Cloud Technical and Community College (SCTCC) to develop as many A&P licensed technicians in Minnesota as possible. Over the past three years, aviation stakeholders in Minnesota have worked together to develop policy initiatives that we believe would help to continue to grow MN's aviation and aerospace industry. Helping to offset the costs that a student incurs when training to be in this field, such as is proposed in SF 519, is one of the top initiatives that the industry has developed.

We have a large employee population in Minnesota and want to make sure that Minnesota's workforce remains competitive and adaptable to the changing needs and growth of the aviation industry. We thank Sen. Hauschild for bringing this legislation forward and appreciate the Senate Tax Committee considering this legislation.

Respectfully,

Jeff Davidman
VP, State & Local Government Affairs