



# MINNDEPENDENT

Via E-Mail Delivery

March 19, 2025

Representative Dave Baker, Co-Chair  
Representative Dave Pinto, Co-Chair  
House Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee

Dear Chair Baker and Chair Pinto:

Thank you for your work and leadership on the Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee. I am writing today to support HF1847, which provides funding to the Minnesota STEM Ecosystem to support STEM learning opportunities and workforce development within the science and technology areas.

MINNDEPENDENT is the largest advocacy and membership organization supporting the nonpublic schools of Minnesota. We connect a network of 181 nonpublic schools which educate more than 41,000 students across Minnesota. Our flagship STEM Program has provided significant support and resources to nonpublic students and educators for more than 15 years.

This legislation advances the concept that a strong STEM education is essential for preparing all students for success and empowering them to make meaningful contributions to society. Benefits of a strong STEM focused education include:

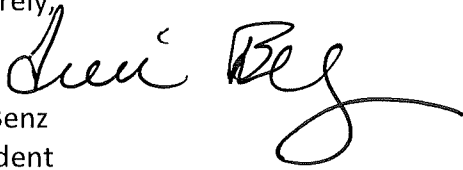
- A strong STEM education equips students with the knowledge and skills needed to pursue careers in fields such as engineering, computer science, healthcare, manufacturing and environmental science.
- STEM skills help students analyze complex problems, develop creative solutions, and apply scientific principles to real-world issues.
- STEM learning encourages innovation and creativity. This mindset of innovation is essential for driving progress and addressing global issues.
- A strong STEM education ensures that students are well-prepared to compete in the global economy and contribute to the advancement of society.

- STEM education plays a crucial role in addressing challenges facing humanity. By equipping students with STEM skills, we empower them to tackle challenges and make a positive impact on the world.

Minnesota must take a broad approach to advancing STEM opportunities and developing the future STEM leaders and workforce of the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to support HF1847.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Benz", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tim Benz  
President