Greater Minnesota Workforce Retention – A Shifting Awareness Emerging in Southwest Minnesota

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COALITION OF GREATER MN CITIES

Agenda

- Center For Rural Policy and Development
  - September 2018 Report
- BUILD Dakota Scholarship Fund
- SW MN Council of Mayor’s
- Minnesota Legislation – A concept
- 2022 Legislative Session
- Opportunities and Challenges
- Panel Discussion

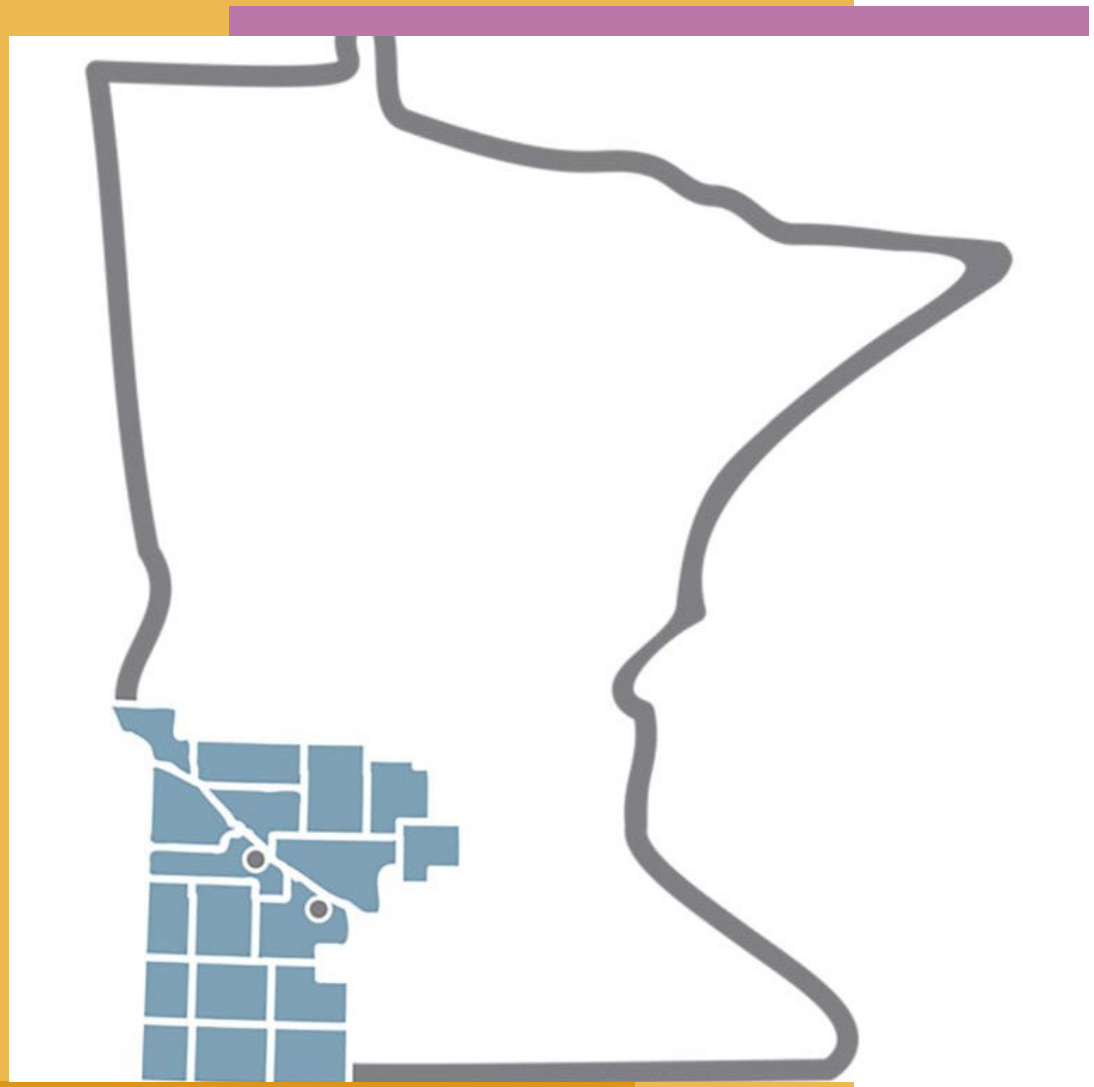
Finding work or finding workers?

- 4-part research project – Kelly Asche
- Workforce in GM is barely growing
- Total GM labor force is projected to drop 3% by 2030
- Solutions include:
  - Tapping hidden talent pools
  - Increase immigration and in-migration
  - Retain youth

center for rural policy and development
Seeking Solutions for Greater Minnesota's Future

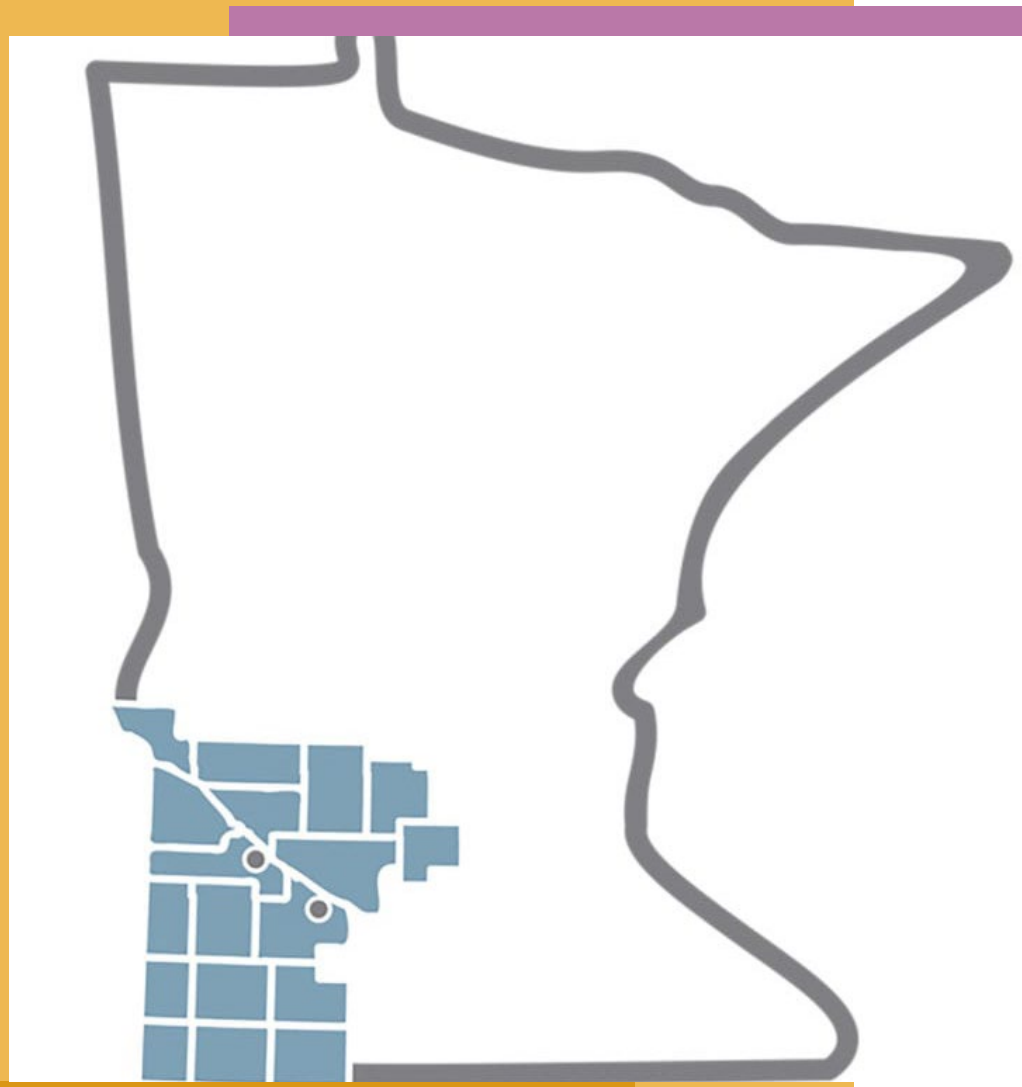
BUILD Dakota Scholarship Fund

- South Dakota has a high demand for skilled workers
- BUILD Dakota created in 2015 with a $25M gift from Denny Sanford matched with a $25M contribution from SD Future Fund
- Initial $50M provided over 1,900 students with a debt free entry to the SD workforce
- In 2020 – another $20M was invested to continue another 5 years
- Four SD technical colleges
- Exchange for a three-year full-time work commitment in field of study
- Open to out state residents & all ages
- Some employers pay for a portion
- Approximately 300-400 scholarships per year



Southwest Minnesota Council of Mayors

- Proposed a pilot program modeled after BUILD
- Five targeted occupations (Minnesota West)
  - Carpentry
  - Plumbing/HVAC
  - Auto Tech
  - Mechatronics
  - Ag Diesel/Automotive



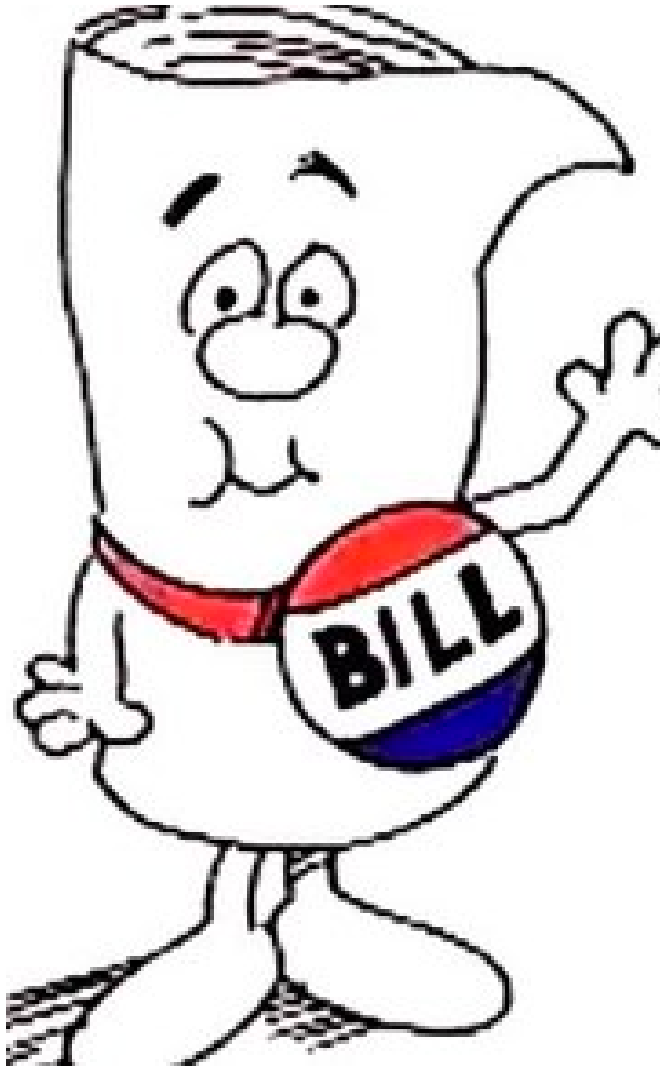
Southwest Minnesota Council of Mayors

- Tuition payment of $8,000 per year (2-years)
- 3-year work commitment in targeted industry
- Request $600,000 per year for five-year pilot program matched with $150,000 in local funds
- Total state investment request:
  - $3 million dollars

Legislation for Minnesota

- What would work? Who should be involved? Opportunities? Challenges? Drafting legislation?
- DEED – State Agency
- SWIF
- Minnesota West
- Workforce Development Organizations
- Employers (MN Chamber)

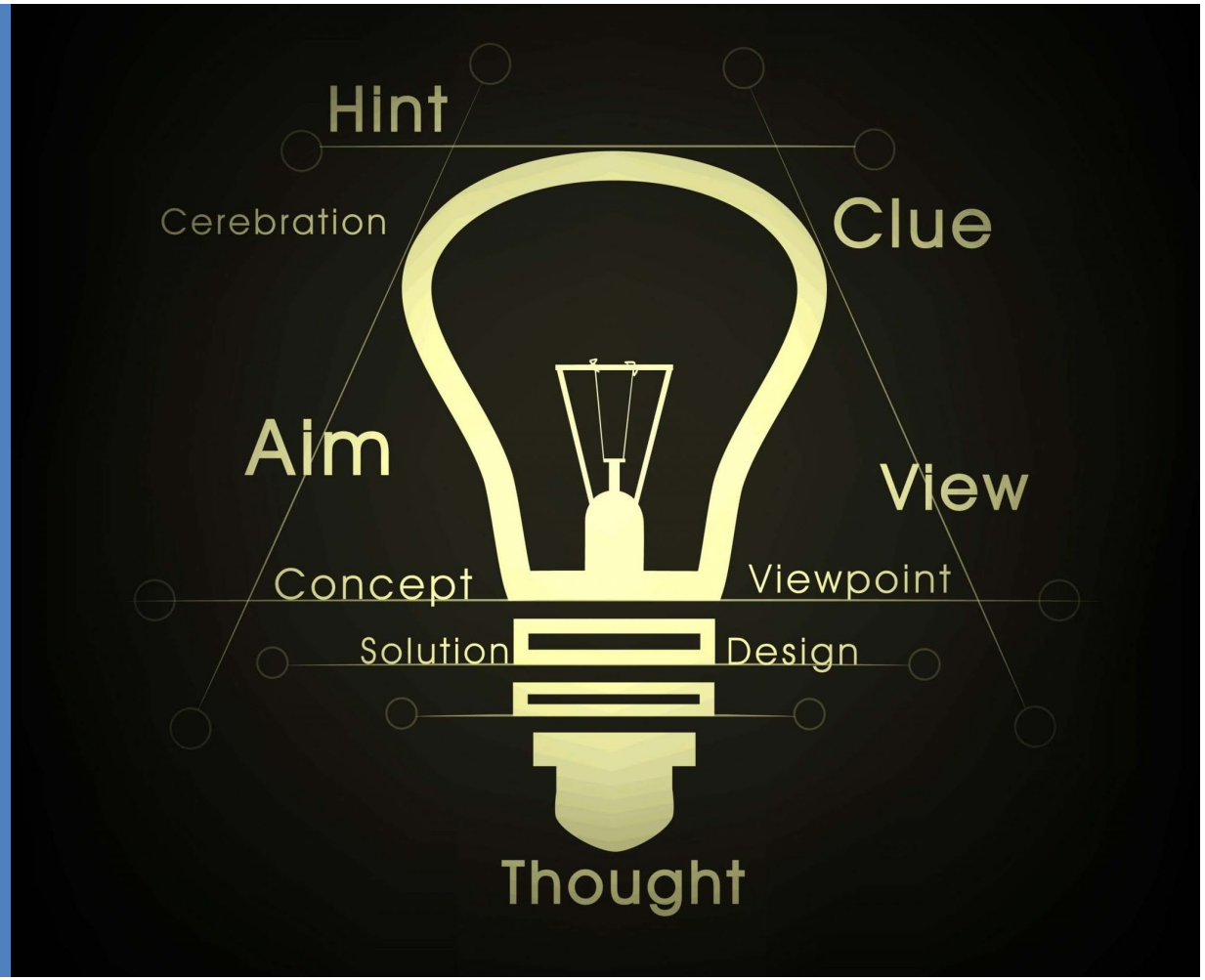
2022 Legislative Session SF 4153/ HF 4512



- Senator Weber/Rep. Hamilton
- Committee hearings in both House and Senate
- Many meetings with legislators and DEED
- General positive reception with agency and Senate GOP
- Concept made it to final negotiations in the Omnibus Jobs Bill

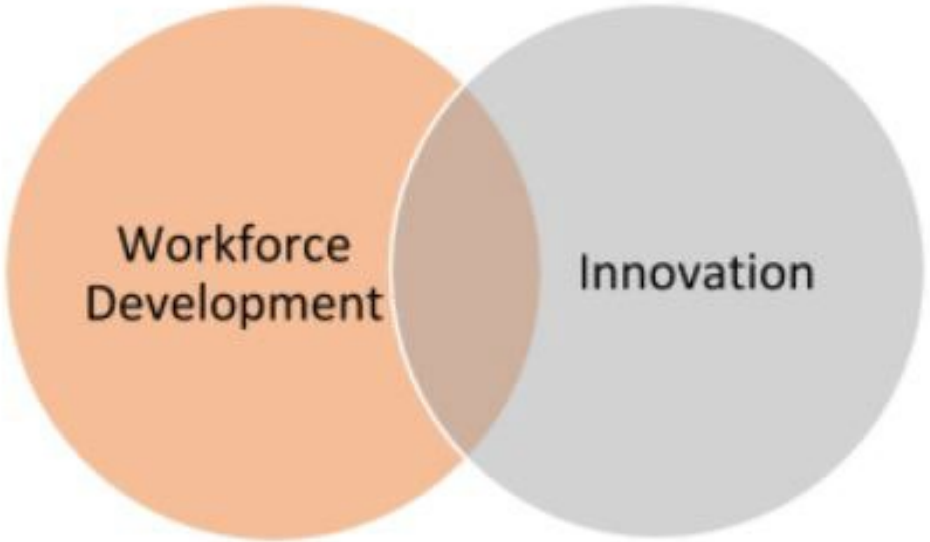
Opportunities and Challenges

- Opportunities
  - Broader understanding of WF challenges in GM
  - Significant budget surplus
  - MN West participation
  - SWIF participation
  - WFD Boards participation
  - MN Chamber participation
  - Must pass budget year in 2023!
- Challenges
  - Office of Higher Education
  - New House Author
  - Fund competition



Brief Discussion Panel – WF Development Innovation

- Carrie Bendix
  - Executive Director of SW MN Private Industry Council (PIC)
- Scott Marquardt
  - Senior Vice President SW MN Initiative Foundation



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We've got you covered...

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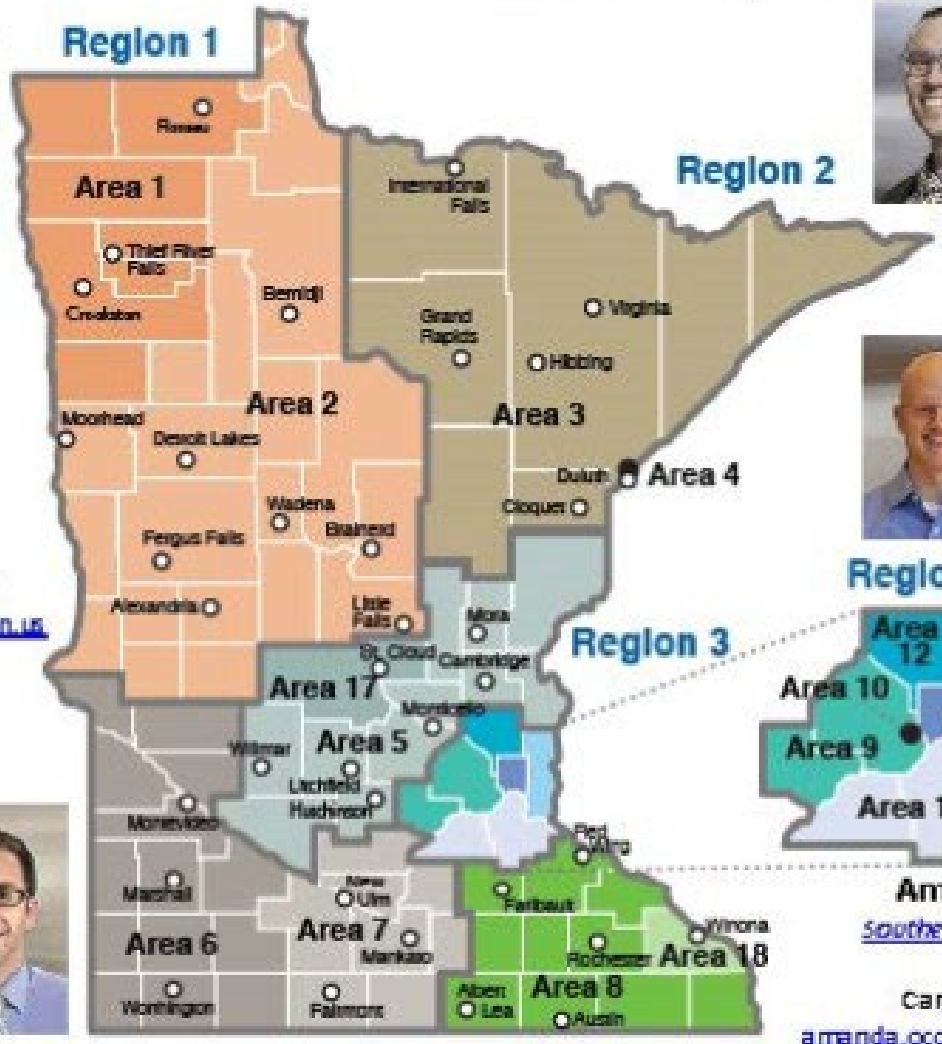
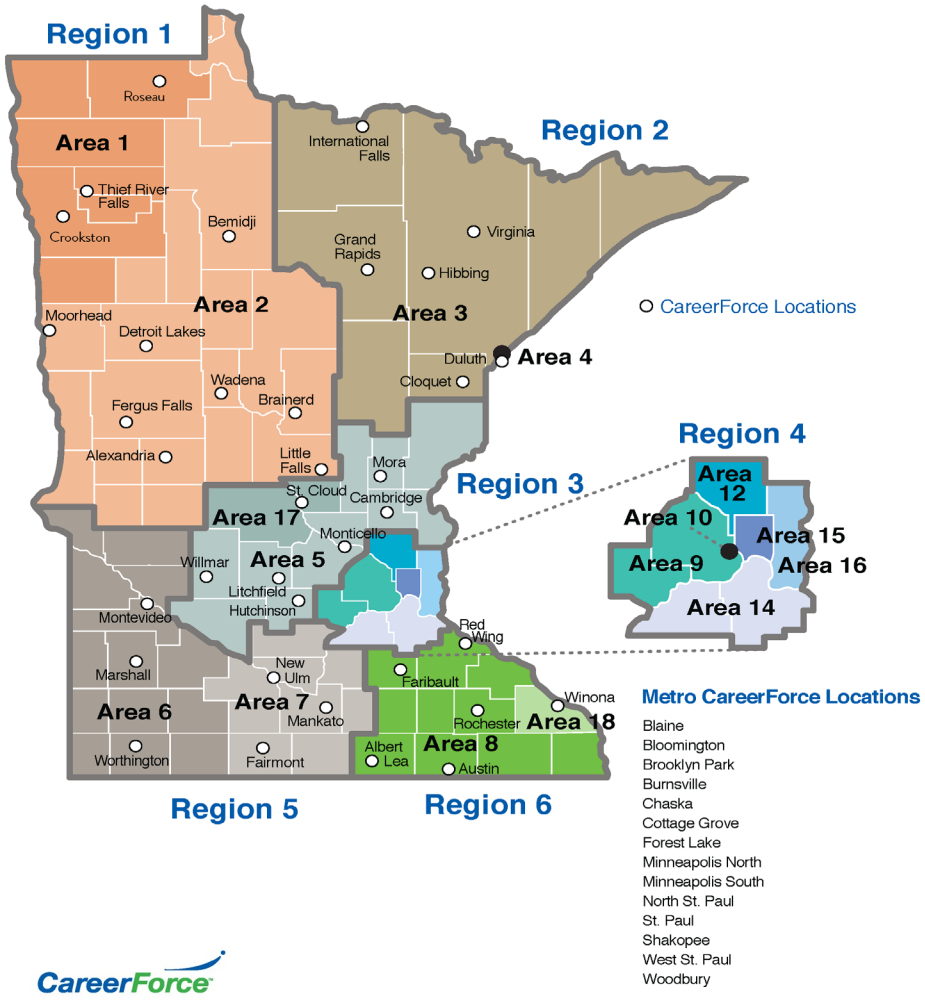


Regional Workforce Development Areas
Local Workforce Development Areas



Metro CareerForce Locations

Blaine
Bloomington
Brooklyn Park
Burnsville
Chaska
Cottage Grove
Forest Lake
Minneapolis North
Minneapolis South
North St. Paul
St. Paul
Shakopee
West St. Paul
Woodbury

CareerForce

More Questions?

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