



Executive Summary: Building a Stronger South Dakota: A Plan for a Stronger South Dakota Economy

As a finance professional at a local community bank, Billie’s learned that the economy is actually pretty simple: it’s people. He sits across the table from folks, helping them as they plan to save for their children's education and retirement. It’s often a struggle as people try to pay the bills and put food on the table for their families. For many South Dakotans, it’s getting harder and harder for people to get by, let alone get ahead.

Billie has traveled across the state listening to the thoughts and concerns of the people, and he’s heard from numerous young people who are concerned about how difficult it is to find a job that pays enough to adequately support their family. He’s heard from moms, dads, and grandparents that are saddened that their children and grandchildren have left the state to find better jobs and wages elsewhere. These concerns were all at the forefront of Billie’s mind when developing the campaign’s “Building a Stronger South Dakota: A Plan for a Stronger South Dakota Economy.”

Billie’s plan focuses on rewarding hard work, training people for the jobs we already have, creating jobs for the people we educate, and planning for strong economic development regardless of where you live in our great state.

To achieve these objectives, the plan:

- Proposes concrete actions and programs to **put our students and life-long learners on the path to good paying jobs**
- Focuses on **investing in our people through education** - in both technical and professional careers - as a central element of workforce development
- Stresses the importance of creating an **environment that is friendly** and encouraging to **employers, employees, and their families**
- And highlights the kinds of **innovation** he’ll pursue in some of our largest industries to **keep us relevant and prosperous for future generations**

“As we look to the future we want to build for our children and grandchildren, we’re lucky that in South Dakota we have some of the most honest, common sense, and hard-working folks to build our economy. My approach to building a stronger South Dakota is centered around our best resource – our people.” – **Billie Sutton**

Read the entire ***Building a Stronger South Dakota Plan*** at SuttonForSD.com