



January 18, 2023

Chairman Patten and Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Members,

On behalf of the members of the Lignite Energy Council (LEC), I am submitting testimony today in support of Senate Bill 2165 that makes changes to the energy policy commission and for the proposed funding to the Clean Sustainable Energy Fund.

The LEC believes that the changes to the energy policy commission found in Section 1 of the bill clarifies that the commission should be focused on making recommendations that improve the availability of affordable and reliable energy production in North Dakota and expands value-added energy products to diversify our state's natural resource-based industries.

We are also supportive that there should be work performed by the commission to make recommendations on a forward-looking comprehensive energy policy to support a stable electrical grid. This proposal is timely as our country is facing a time period in which there have been increasing electric grid max generation events and reliability concerns in the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) and the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) regional electricity transmission grids.

The LEC supports the appropriation to the Clean Sustainable Energy Authority which has been active in advancing research and development projects with grant funding and with carbon capture use and sequestration technologies with commercialization loan funding. There are two large carbon capture projects that are close to moving forward into the commercialization phase who have been working with CSEF in the last biennium that would be greatly assisted with additional funding opportunities in the future.

For these reasons, the Lignite Energy Council supports SB 2165 and we respectfully ask that the committee provide this legislation with a favorable "Do-Pass" recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration,

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