

Sixty-first  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## HOUSE BILL NO.

Introduced by

Representative Porter

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new chapter to title 17 of the North Dakota Century  
2 code, relating to the state energy policy.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1.** A new chapter to title 17 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and  
5 enacted as follows:

6 **State energy policy.**

7 1. The legislative assembly declares that:

- 8 a. This state is endowed with abundant energy resources such as the largest  
9 deposit of lignite coal in the world, is one of the top oil producing states in the  
10 nation, has great wind energy potential, and is the top producer of many  
11 agricultural commodities with renewable energy conversion potential;  
12 b. This state is home to a university system which houses world-class energy  
13 research and training programs;  
14 c. The energy industry contributes to economic well-being by creating job  
15 opportunities and creating new wealth in the economy; and  
16 d. This state has a strong tradition of environmental stewardship.

17 2. The legislative assembly declares it is the policy of this state to:

- 18 a. Develop a balanced approach to encourage growth and stimulate the  
19 development of renewable and traditional fossil-based energy within the state  
20 with the goal of providing secure, diverse, sustainable, and competitive  
21 energy supplies that may be produced and secured within the state to assist  
22 the nation in reducing its dependence on foreign energy sources;  
23 b. Promote the research, development, and demonstration of new technologies;  
24 enhance environmental stewardship; provide innovative opportunities; and

- 1                   create additional employment and wealth that contribute to economic  
2                   development and decrease dependence on foreign energy supplies;  
3           c.   Grow the fossil fuel and renewable energy industries within this state to  
4                   encourage the state's competitiveness for both the domestic and export  
5                   markets;  
6           d.   Educate the citizens of this state on the impact of the state's energy industry;  
7           e.   Not support state energy mandates;  
8           f.   Maintain a fair regulatory environment for energy development that  
9                   encourages companies to transform the state's extensive natural resources  
10                  into energy in a way that protects the state's scenic beauty and the rights of  
11                  property owners;  
12           g.   Have the transmission authority facilitate and coordinate new transmission  
13                  initiatives to benefit this state;  
14           h.   Pursue lignite development for electricity generation, gasification, liquefaction,  
15                  and associated byproducts;  
16           i.   Maintain a balanced package of incentives and policies to remain a  
17                  competitive and attractive location for biofuels production;  
18           j.   Support policies aimed at improving the long-term economic feasibility of  
19                  biomass production;  
20           k.   Create incentives and education programs that promote energy efficiency;  
21           l.   Support the growth of refining through industrial commission programs and a  
22                  supportive tax and regulatory structure;  
23           m.   Support and assist in pipeline infrastructure development through the pipeline  
24                  authority;  
25           n.   Encourage oil and gas exploration through a supportive regulatory  
26                  environment and research that maximizes the extraction of all the state's oil  
27                  resources;  
28           o.   Support energy education programs that help consumers make informed fuel  
29                  purchase decisions;

- 1           p. Expand the state's workforce recruitment and marketing strategy to include  
2           other states and international talent pools to serve the extraordinary needs of  
3           the state's energy industry;
- 4           q. Create an all-encompassing resource for job seekers that helps them identify  
5           opportunities that match their skills and directs them to resources regarding  
6           relocation issues such as housing, community information, and job training  
7           programs;
- 8           r. Attract and train more students into energy industry and energy research jobs  
9           by building stronger connections between industry and education and  
10          improving awareness of energy career opportunities among teachers and  
11          career counselors; and
- 12          s. Ensure adequate water, power, and infrastructure for energy development  
13          and for the communities in which energy development exists.