



**Testimony of Connie Ova, CEO
Jamestown/Stutsman Development Corporation
SB 2137
March 15, 2021**

Chairman Headland and members of the House Finance and Taxation Committee. I'm Connie Ova, CEO of the Jamestown/Stutsman Development Corporation. I stand before you in support of SB 2137, which creates an opportunity for diversification of the state's economy. It also keeps North Dakota competitive with our neighboring states.

The benefit of data centers is not reserved only for emerging industries but also provides a competitive advantage for traditional industries like healthcare, finance, engineering, and more, as these industries become more data intensive each year. Policies like SB-2137 would not only put us on more even footing with other states in attracting data centers but would also strengthen the global competitiveness of companies that are already here.

Attracting large data loads will help consume power locally making North Dakota's electrical infrastructure more efficient benefiting all energy stakeholders. According to John Weeda in a January 2021 report from the North Dakota Transmission Authority, our electrical transmission system will require substantial investment to deliver power to markets outside of the state. Encouraging large energy users to locate within North Dakota helps all energy resources in a rapidly changing generation and transmission environment

JSDC understands the difficult position you have to determine the state's future, and we appreciate all the thoughtfulness you have put into managing this responsibility. Please consider how programs and resources support the communities in the entire state as you make these decisions.

I urge the committee's support of SB 2137.