

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2137  
SENATE FINANCE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 12, 2021

**JUSTIN DEVER - SENIOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST, MDU RESOURCES GROUP, INC.**

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Justin Dever and I am testifying today in support of Senate Bill 2137 on behalf of MDU Resources Group and its subsidiary Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. Montana-Dakota serves 158 communities in North Dakota with electricity and natural gas.

Value-added energy projects like data centers can be a win-win for the state and local communities. They can help diversify the state's economy, provide jobs for North Dakotans, and add to the tax base.

Attracting data centers can provide a unique opportunity to add value to our state's electric generation. As you may know, large data centers consume significant amounts of power. This is power that could be generated and used in the state, bypassing transmission constraints that limit the amount of power exported out of state.

North Dakota has natural advantages in attracting data centers, such as the state's cool climate which assist in cooling. North Dakota also has competitive electricity rates, an important factor considering the amount of power they consume. However, incentives like the one proposed in SB 2137 are needed for North Dakota to be competitive with other states, such as Minnesota and Iowa, which are among the majority of states that have incentive programs targeting data centers.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to visit with you today.