

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2301

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Dear Senators, I am submitting testimony to support Senate Bill 2301, which is a good start to fight for North Dakota construction workers. After seven years of being in the state I now consider myself a North Dakotan, having moved here from Illinois with promise of abundant work. My work has predominately been in central North Dakota's coal-fired power plants and for the last year I've been working with commercial contractors – expanding my skills and training.

As I have watched my own hours being cut working within the power plants due to shortened outages and major changes in technology – I am looking to take more training and become skilled in other areas of construction so my family and I can remain living in the state we call home.

As our energy industry evolves in many various formats, I want to expand into new areas of construction and want to have a long-term career in the state. Keeping track of a contractor's commitment to local hire is a strong step toward protecting local workforce, which should always be a priority.

Thank you for your time, I would ask you to vote yes on SB 2301.

Henry Tapia