

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2301

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Dear Senators of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. I am submitting testimony in support of Senate Bill 2301.

I am a native of Illinois and several years ago moved to North Dakota – which was the biggest land of opportunity when oil made the state the second largest producer in the U.S. for while.

Fast forward to now. I am a resident of Williston, living here with my daughter. I am part of a cross-section of transplant residents that now call North Dakota home and plan to stay here and grow my construction career in the state. I do not want to travel outside the state, because I want to be home to help my teenage daughter with school and extra-curricular activities.

My skilled construction experience in the last six years includes pipeline installation, heavy highway work, maintenance in power plants and I was part of finishing Dakota Gasification's urea production plant. I will continue my training opportunities to expand into renewable generation projects as that market grows in the northern plains.

As the Bakken has remained stagnant for a few years and I hear we may not see an uptick in the industry for more than three years – I want to know that I will still be able to find work here in North Dakota. I've kept track of various projects and applied for many and am turned out, most often pushed aside by workers that are here in the state for the brief construction window.

I realize many companies coming in from out-of-state need a core of their technical experts – but North Dakota has a large group of union and non-union workers with extensive experience in building renewables.

Senate Bill 2301 is a positive step forward for the state's workers who want to stay rooted here and work on career growth.