

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2301

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For several years, I've been working in the construction industry, primarily working at our state's power generation facilities and on pipelines. I've chosen this career because of excellent wages and benefits for my family and I want to continue my career within North Dakota and not have to travel out of state

North Dakota's economy is continually going through fluctuations. Up until late 2015, the state had experienced years of a major boom due to the oil industry. Our state's overall unemployment was basically as low as it could go. Fast forward to now and the landscape of business and industry has changed. Lower oil prices and COVID19 have contributed to a higher unemployment rate. We are facing serious times of uncertainty in our overall energy industry. With GRE's announcement to close Coal Creek, affecting those employees and many more at Falkirk Mine, there will be local North Dakotans looking for new careers. It could also be years before we see oil boom times.

Senate Bill 2301 is a bill that takes a step in the renewable energy industry to choose North Dakota workers first. There are still a large number of construction workers forced to work out of state when companies bring in all their out-of-state workers. Supporting SB 2301 is a way to help our workers keep up full time work in state by encouraging contractors to report local hire and work to recruit local people in stronger way.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sarah Bryson