

## Testimony in support of SB2301

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Dear Chairman and members of the committee

I'm writing to you today in regards to the proposal of Senate Bill 2301. As a 4<sup>th</sup> generation North Dakotan, I would like to extend my approval of all aspects of the Bill. With so many different things going on in our nation currently, I feel that the changes to the Bill would greatly help the people and industry of North Dakota. With the attack on the current oil and gas industry there runs a possibility that up to 30,000 current oil and gas workers in North Dakota could lose their jobs on any given day. With myself being one of those oil and gas workers, this Bill leaves a small glimmer of hope that if the oil and gas industry does fall, that I and thousands of other North Dakotans can take our skill sets to another energy industry close to home so we can continue to thrive here in the state we call home.

With North Dakota's rate of unemployment in December of 2020 at 4.1% SB301 would also help lower that rate and get North Dakotans back to work. North Dakotans should have preference of employment for any aspect of the construction and operation of these incoming new energy facilities in the state. The changes also put checks and balances in place to make certain that these companies and lower-level government are abiding by the law in every aspect that they are required to. It's time to put North Dakotans first.

Thank you,

Aaron J. Long