

Senate Finance and Taxation Committee
Chairman Jordan Kannianen
March 8, 2023

Testimony
Jay Standish
Mayor, City of New Town

HB 1170

Chairman Kannianen and members of the Committee. My name is Jay Standish and I am the duly elected Mayor of the City of New Town, North Dakota, as well as a lifetime resident and an enrolled member of the Three Affiliated Tribes. I ask that this committee give its approval to the HB 1170 to help the accessibility of natural gas to small communities.

There appears to be little hope for the citizens of my community and other smaller communities across this state to get access to natural gas. The same natural gas we see being flared off in our backyards 24 hours each day. I wonder how many homes could be heated with the gas being flared in the few minutes it takes for you to read this.

We must have a way to get the natural gas from the wells to our homes in rural North Dakota. The communities, in southern Mountrail County, of New Town, Parshall, and Plaza have joined ranks to seek a solution that is economically feasible. We have held joint meetings with our local legislators, our mayors, city council members, representatives from MDU, and Tribal Chairman Mark Fox and Tribal Representative Monica Mayer from Fort Berthold. We have also discussed funding options with the Bank of North Dakota and have heard advice from bond counsel.

Unfortunately, as it stands now, no feasible options exist, without more state involvement. HB 1170 be on step in the direction to aid my community possibly in solving our need for access to natural gas.

Please support this bill and other accessibility options or obstacles.

Thank-you.