



ND House Committee on Agriculture
Committee Hearing
March 20, 2025

Testimony of Jessica Eagle-Bluestone, Geothermal Rising, on
[Senate Bill No. 2360](#)
North Dakota Sixty-Ninth Legislative Assembly

Chairman Mike Beltz and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

I am Jessica Eagle-Bluestone, a North Dakota resident and a member of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation. In my role on Geothermal Rising's policy team, I focus on advocating for the advancement of geothermal development through policy and stakeholder engagement. Geothermal Rising, the world's oldest geothermal non-profit association, serves as the leading professional and educational organization for the geothermal community in the United States.

I strongly support Senate Bill No. 2360, which calls for a study on the feasibility of developing geothermal energy in our state, especially given the growing interest in developing geothermal solutions. Having worked within North Dakota's energy landscape as a geologist, I have seen how our longstanding oil and gas expertise can lay a robust foundation for advancing geothermal energy development.

North Dakota's history as an energy leader is undeniable. Now, we have an extraordinary opportunity to build on that legacy by tapping into our geothermal potential. Our state is uniquely positioned, with a high quality resource and more than 30,000 inactive oil and gas wells that can be repurposed, to develop a reliable, sustainable energy network.

Consider these compelling figures:

- A modest 10 MW geothermal facility can generate between 80 and 90 GWh per year, delivering dependable, round-the-clock power to over 10,000 households.
- By repurposing just 10% of our inactive wells, we could install up to 6,000 MW of geothermal capacity. This level of production could power nearly 2 million homes, create substantial new revenue streams, and significantly reduce well-plugging costs.

Geothermal energy offers long-term economic and operational benefits. Facilities typically operate for over 30 years with lower operating costs than many conventional power plants, promising a stable source of jobs and a secure energy future for our communities. Additionally, if present, lithium co-production from geothermal brines could significantly accelerate return on investment, further enhancing the economic potential of geothermal in North Dakota.



GEOHERMAL RISING POLICY

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I recognize there may be concerns about the upfront costs of geothermal projects. However, federal funding opportunities and long-term operational savings can help offset these initial investments. A clear regulatory framework will also be essential to attract private investors, driving further economic growth and expediting project development.

Importantly, pursuing geothermal energy in North Dakota builds upon, rather than competes with, our petroleum industry. By drawing on our extensive subsurface knowledge, utilizing existing infrastructure, and tapping into an already skilled workforce, we can maximize the value of our current energy industry while securing new avenues for growth.

Senate Bill 2360 is not just a study, it is a strategic investment in our state's future. Funding this study will enable North Dakota to develop policies that unlock our geothermal potential, diversify our energy mix, and solidify our position as a leader in energy innovation.

By transforming existing assets into sustainable, productive energy sources, we can ensure a truly resilient energy future for the people of our state. I respectfully request that you pass Senate Bill 2360 to move from discussion to decisive action and position North Dakota at the forefront of geothermal innovation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome any questions you may have.

Jessica Eagle-Bluestone
Geothermal Rising Policy Team