

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Andrea Pfennig, and I am the Vice President of Government Affairs for the Greater North Dakota Chamber. GNDC is North Dakota's largest statewide business advocacy organization, with membership represented by small and large businesses, local chambers, and trade and industry associations across the state. We stand in **support** of House Bill 1279.

From small retail shops to large manufacturing facilities, every business relies on consistent and cost-effective energy to operate and succeed. From a capital attraction standpoint, affordable and reliable energy is a key factor for many businesses evaluating where to invest and expand.

Lignite power plants play an essential role in meeting these energy needs by providing dependable electricity. This bill provides a practical solution to support critical infrastructure by extending the coal conversion tax relief for ten years. This will give lignite power plants the financial stability they need to manage rising costs associated with maintenance, upgrades, and regulatory compliance.

This is an important step in maintaining the energy resources that power our state's economy. We urge you to support this bill to ensure North Dakota businesses have the reliable electricity they need to innovate, grow, and succeed in an increasingly competitive marketplace.