

Dear Chairman Patten, Vice Chairman Kessel, and Senators of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

I am writing in opposition to HB 1258.

In the late 1930s electric lines began to be built in North Dakota and at that time co-ops had to sign up members and ask farmers to give up land for the power lines. Why now after approximately 88 years of rural electricity in our state is it necessary for the ND PSC to supersede local township and county zoning ordinances for a transmission facility?

Local townships and county commissioners know what is in the best interest of their residents and communities. The most responsive and accountable government is the government closest to the people. HB 1258 takes this control away from the people. When politicians start to undermine their constituents to promote big industry, they fail the people they are elected to represent. Therefore, I ask you to oppose HB 1258.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Vicki Carpenter