



Good morning, Chairman Patten and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

The Power Companies of North Dakota (“PCND”) urges a “Do Pass” recommendation on HB 1579.

PCND is a coalition of the state’s leading shareholder-owned gas and electric utilities. Our members include MDU Resources Group, Xcel Energy, Otter Tail Power Company, and ALLETE. Together, PCND members serve over 427,000 North Dakota customers, employ over 1,200 North Dakotans, and manage significant power generation and transmission infrastructure across our state.

North Dakota has a unique opportunity to become a hub for data centers, leveraging our abundant energy resources and climate well-suited for data centers. This would not only enhance our state’s technological infrastructure but also create high-paying jobs and stimulate local economies.

Given the complexity and significance of this opportunity, we believe a comprehensive interim study is essential to evaluate infrastructure requirements, energy demands, and the broader impact of data center expansion. PCND and its members are prepared to actively contribute their expertise and industry insights to help develop a well-informed and balanced study.

For these reasons, we respectfully request a “Do Pass” recommendation on HB 1579, and we’d be happy to work with the committee on any proposed amendments.

Thank you, Chairman Patten and committee members.