

March 28, 2025

To: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senator Dale Patten, Chairman

Re: Support for HB 1579

From: Zac Smith, communications and government relations director, NDAREC

Chairman Patten and members of the committee, my name is Zac Smith, and I serve as the director of communications and government relations for the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives in Mandan. On behalf of the 17 distribution cooperatives and five generation and transmission cooperatives who are members of our association, we support the study contained in HB 1579. Electric cooperatives take great pride in our role in powering North Dakota's economic growth.

This bill generated a lot of opposition in its original form, which demonstrated the need for further study, communication, and education about load growth and how it is handled at multiple planning stages on the grid. North Dakota's Electric cooperatives are committed to continuing to come to the table and share our story through the interim. We support this effort and urge a do pass on HB 1579.