



March 6, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Lignite Energy Council in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 3016. North Dakota's coal industry plays a critical role in both the production of reliable electricity and in the future of enhanced oil recovery (EOR) through carbon capture utilization. Coal-fired power plants already provide affordable and stable electricity that helps power North Dakota's oil production today, and with advancements in carbon capture, coal will be instrumental in unlocking billions of dollars in future oil revenues through EOR.

North Dakota's vast lignite resources are uniquely positioned to support the long-term viability of the Bakken oil fields. By capturing CO<sub>2</sub> from coal-based power and gasification facilities, we can provide a valuable commodity for EOR, increasing oil recovery rates and extending the productive life of the Bakken for decades. This not only enhances energy security but also ensures that North Dakota's oil production remains strong, generating billions in tax revenues that fund essential services such as schools, infrastructure, and public safety.

Supporting policies that promote carbon capture and CO<sub>2</sub> utilization will allow coal to continue playing a key role in both electricity generation and resource development. As oil recovery becomes more dependent on advanced EOR techniques, the integration of coal-based carbon capture will be critical in maintaining North Dakota's position as a leader in energy production.

House Concurrent Resolution 3016 affirms the importance of these industries working together to secure the state's economic future, and we urge the committee to support this resolution to reinforce North Dakota's commitment to responsible energy development.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jonathan Fortner  
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Lignite Energy Council