

HOUSE BILL NO. 1133

Introduced by

Natural Resources Committee

(At the request of the Industrial Commission)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 54-17.5-03 of the North Dakota Century Code,
2 relating to evaluating applications for funding from the lignite research fund.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 54-17.5-03 of the 1995 Supplement to the North
5 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **54-17.5-03. Priority projects, processes, and activities.** In evaluating applications
7 for funding from the lignite research fund for North Dakota's lignite research, development, and
8 marketing program, the industrial commission and lignite research council shall give priority to
9 those projects, processes, or activities that will preserve existing jobs and production, which will
10 create the greatest number of new jobs and most additional lignite production and economic
11 growth potential in coal-producing counties or those counties with recoverable coal reserves,
12 which will attract matching private industry investment equal to at least fifty percent or more of
13 the total cost, and which will result in development and demonstration of a marketable lignite
14 product or products with a high level of probability of ~~rapid near term~~ commercialization ~~by the~~
15 ~~year 2000 or before~~. For marketing applications, priority must be given to those projects,
16 processes, or activities that develop baseline information, implement specific marketing
17 strategies, and otherwise contribute to the effective marketing of lignite and its products ~~by the~~
18 ~~year 2000 or before~~. For reclamation applications, priority must be given to those projects,
19 processes, or activities that will reduce unnecessary regulatory costs and assist in effectively
20 reclaiming surface mined land to its original or better productivity as soon as possible. Any
21 projects, activities, or processes selected by the commission for funding must achieve the
22 priorities and purposes of the program, must have undergone technical review and be
23 determined to have technical merit, must have generated matching private industry investment,
24 and must have received a favorable lignite research council recommendation.