

HOUSE BILL NO. 1115

Introduced by

Representative Mueller

1 A BILL for an Act to provide for a biomass energy center.

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

3 **SECTION 1. Biomass energy center.** The biomass energy center consists of a
4 multidisciplinary group led by North Dakota state university research and extension faculty to
5 research biomass production, harvesting, and transportation to conversion facilities.

6 **SECTION 2. Biomass research responsibilities.**

7 1. North Dakota state university and United States department of agriculture
8 researchers shall complete agronomic research to determine the most efficient
9 perennial grasses for cellulose production and the amount of fertilization required.

10 2. The North Dakota state university agricultural and biosystems engineering
11 department shall conduct research to determine the most efficient method of
12 harvesting biomass.

13 3. The North Dakota state university agribusiness and applied economics department
14 shall determine the benefits of biomass densification or preprocessing and the
15 agricultural and biosystems department shall research densification or
16 preprocessing technologies.

17 4. The North Dakota state university agribusiness and applied economics department
18 shall complete an economic evaluation of all steps in the utilization of biomass for
19 energy.

20 **SECTION 3. Public information activities.** The biomass energy center shall inform
21 the public of the importance of biomass for energy for production. The North Dakota state
22 university extension service shall provide this educational programming. The North Dakota
23 state university extension service is authorized one additional full-time equivalent position to
24 perform this function.

1 **SECTION 4. Ethanol and biomass incentives.** The biomass energy center shall
2 work to expand incentives for cellulosic ethanol production and biomass energy through the
3 legislative assembly or at the federal level. The center shall identify incentives for producers,
4 such as providing payment for producers to grow a dedicated bio-energy crop or support
5 equipment, harvesting, and transportation costs. Biomass energy task force members shall
6 work through the North Dakota renewable energy partnership to actively promote biomass use.

7 **SECTION 5. Funding.** The North Dakota natural resources trust and North Dakota
8 state university researchers shall seek funding to continue perennial biomass production
9 research and education at North Dakota state university agricultural research centers and the
10 United States department of agriculture-agriculture research service station at Mandan.