



# WESTERN DAKOTA ENERGY ASSOCIATION

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

February 2, 2021

Shannon Holter  
President  
City of Bowbells

Testimony of:  
Geoff Simon, Lobbyist #144  
in support of HB 1425  
House Finance and Taxation Committee

Trudy Ruland  
Vice President  
Mountrail County

Chairman Headland and Committee members:

Supt. Leslie Bieber  
Alexander PSD

On behalf of the city, county and school district members of the Western Dakota Energy Association (WDEA), we wish to express our strong support for House Bill 1425 to direct the investment of future Legacy Fund deposits in state infrastructure projects and to provide equity and venture capital to promising projects or companies that will preserve, grow and diversify North Dakota's economy.

Daryl Dukart  
Dunn County

We all know North Dakota has many state and local infrastructure needs, so directing funding to the Legacy infrastructure revolving loan fund will deliver low interest financing to support completion of projects vital to our economic success.

Zach Gaaskjolen  
City of Stanley

Supt. Shon Hocker  
Dickinson PSD

Supt. Tim Holte  
Stanley PSD

WDEA believes the equity component of this legislation creates an exciting opportunity to not only support economic diversification and new job creation, but can also provide much-needed capital to support investments that will preserve and enhance existing North Dakota facilities and operations. We believe HB 1425 can be viewed as a companion to HB 1452 that will establish a clean sustainable energy authority and a clean sustainable energy fund. The livelihood of many of the citizens of western North Dakota is tied to the success of the energy industry. This legislation can potentially provide one more tool to help promote commercialization of new technologies to enhance environmental protection and ensure the economic viability and sustainability of the oil, gas and coal industries.

Lyn James  
City of Bowman

David Montgomery  
Williams County

John Phillips  
Coal Conversion  
Counties

WDEA applauds the legislators who developed and sponsored this legislation for their foresight to promote the wise investment of Legacy Fund revenue in the people and industries that will ensure a bright future for generations to come.

Supt. Brad Rinas  
Washburn PSD  
Coal Conversion  
Counties

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.