

## North Dakota Utility Working Group



Over the interim, leadership from our companies worked with LEC to develop and vet ideas to support lignite operations and the use of lignite by utilities. The goal was to provide useful concepts that would support the lignite industry. From those efforts and with full utility support, the LEC's priorities were formed. Those priorities are as follows:

- Support Immediate Economic Relief Through Short-Term Tax Reform: HB 1412
- Support Insurance Reform: SB 2287
- Support Access to Capital for Carbon Capture Commercialization: SBs 2152, 2206, HB 1425,
- Support 45Q Tax Conformity: SB 2152
- Support Increased R&D Funding: HB 1380, HB 1425, HB 1452

These tools were developed after considerable analysis and cooperation among the companies in this state who bear the responsibility to generate electricity and serve customers, and they were developed to answer the resounding question from policy-makers of "what can we do?" These priorities are our collective answer.

Despite these industry-endorsed tools, concepts continue to be put forth which are not helpful and possibly harmful to the industry. Further, these concepts have been put forth with no outreach to the people responsible for generating and serving electric loads who have intimate knowledge of the mechanics and needs of the industry. We oppose these pieces of legislation.

These concepts include the following:

- Punitive taxation policy: HB 1458
- Regulatory expansion and overreach: HB 1292 (withdrawn), HB 1455, and SB 2313