

HB 1452

Testimony January 28, 2021

Mr. Chairman . Members of the committee. My name is Todd Leake. I am Chair of Dacotah Chapter of Sierra Club.

Dacotah Chapter of Sierra Club has over 500 members throughout North Dakota. As a group we are actively involved in promoting clean, renewable energy development in North Dakota.

While creating a clean sustainable energy authority to facilitate, promote, and provide guidance and financial support for the development of North Dakota's clean energy resources has merit, HB 1452 falls far short of the mark. Attempting to create an authority membership that does not include representation from the clean energy industry or local citizen, agriculture and landowner, or clean energy advocacy organizations is obviously not a serious endeavor.

The list of proposed advisory members represents, almost exclusively, organizations and government agencies associated with the fossil fuel industry. There is no proposed membership representation from North Dakota solar, wind, or alternative energy industries. There is also no proposed representation from North Dakota's environmental community who have long advocated for clean, renewable energy in the state.

Voting members include: two appointed by the lignite research council; two appointed by the oil and gas research council; one member appointed by the renewable energy council, an entity within the ND Industrial Commission; and one member appointed by the western Dakota energy association.

Non-voting members include: the ND Outdoor Heritage Fund, also an entity within the ND Industrial Commission, whose mission statement does not include anything remotely related to energy development; and four state agencies charged with regulating the fossil fuel industry in North Dakota.

In the end, HB 1452 appears to be more like an attempt by the fossil fuel industry and its sycophants to "hi-jack" the trajectory of clean energy in North Dakota and control any grant money that may be awarded for advancing clean energy development in the state.

Before spending \$25,000,000 of our state's limited financial resources we want to make sure we will be getting the most "bang for the buck" in directing grant money to the most effective on the ground clean energy projects.

Given the glaring short-comings of HB 1452, perhaps a legislative study of the issue is warranted before proceeding with a bill that will not accomplish the very worthy goal of enhancing ND's clean sustainable energy development.

Although Dacotah Chapter of Sierra Club whole heartedly supports the continued development of North Dakota's clean energy resources, we respectfully requests that you vote for a "Do Not

Pass" recommendation for HB 1452. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.