



WESTERN DAKOTA ENERGY ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

January 28, 2021

Shannon Holter
President
City of Bowbells

Testimony of:
Geoff Simon, Lobbyist #144
in support of HB 1452
House Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Trudy Ruland
Vice President
Mountrail County

Chairman Porter 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 strong support for House Bill 1452 to establish a clean sustainable energy authority and a clean sustainable energy fund. Our association represents North Dakota civic leaders and citizens who live in the oil, gas and coal-producing counties. The livelihood of many of these communities depend on the success of the energy industry, and they in turn provide vital services that support energy development.

Daryl Dukart
Dunn County

Zach Gaaskjolen
City of Stanley

Supt. Shon Hocker
Dickinson PSD

Our association board of directors includes county commissioners, mayors, council members and school superintendents from communities throughout western North Dakota. The legislation before you is about the future of North Dakota's fossil fuel industry, and our member communities will live in that future. The future could be bleak if the anti-fossil fuel agenda of the Biden administration prevails, or it could be very bright if we are able to embrace new technologies to ensure the economic viability and sustainability of the oil, gas and coal industries.

Supt. Tim Holte
Stanley PSD

Lyn James
City of Bowman

David Montgomery
Williams County

Some might ask why WDEA should have a member on the authority that would be created by HB 1452. I think I've answered that question. It's because our members live in energy-producing counties, so have a powerful incentive to see the industry succeed. Our members have expertise and experience in fostering energy research and development. Two former WDEA presidents currently serve on the Oil & Gas Research Council, and another of our board members serves on the Lignite Research Council.

John Phillips
Coal Conversion
Counties

Supt. Brad Rinas
Washburn PSD
Coal Conversion
Counties

We urge the committee's support of HB 1452, and should funding be available, we would suggest the \$25 million appropriation be increased.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I would be pleased to answer questions if you have any.