

*Complaining about a problem
without proposing a solution
is called whining.
-Teddy Roosevelt*



Bette B. Grande
President & CEO

March 12, 2021

Chairman Porter and Members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Bette Grande, I am the CEO of Roughrider Policy Center and I stand in support of SB 2291. I have provided the Committee with two articles I wrote recently, and a white paper written by Bud Brigham, many of you will recognize that name, Mr. Brigham was a pioneer in the Bakken.

These materials will explain what we are up against and I want to use this time to put this issue in perspective. I am old enough to remember the 1980's and I saw my father struggle when the oil field went bust. The 80's were hard in North Dakota, young people seeking opportunity moved away, myself included.

Many of you may recall the idea floated in the late 80's that North Dakota would become a "Buffalo Commons" and thinking back of that time it was hard to argue with Frank and Deborah Popper on that vision.

My family and I moved back to North Dakota in 1992 and things were improving. Gov. Schafer and the Republican Legislature were working to bring our economy back and build a future for North Dakota families.

But it was not until pioneers like Bud Brigham brought the Bakken to life that things really began to change in North Dakota. Population growth, economic opportunity, wealth and revenue growth put North Dakota on the national map. Energy security.

The new administration is not friendly to coal, oil, natural gas and other vital parts of our economy and supports many Green New Deal policies. And the ESG (Environmental and Social Governance) movement is just the latest tool to attack our traditional energy resources. ESG could just as well stand for "Eliminate Shale Gambit" and efforts by industry and government in our state to play along with the ESG game will only weaken our hand.

Why would North Dakota go along with a plan to send us back to the 1980's, to Buffalo Commons?

The issues and threats our energy industry faces are significant. We will be right back fighting with environmental groups and federal agencies over our ability, our rights, to develop our resources. The future of DAPL is in the hands of federal court in DC. Additional infrastructure

for developing coal, oil and natural gas is needed. Access to capital will be critical for our economy and our state.

SB 2291 is a great start because the next two years are going to be a challenge. North Dakota must make it clear that we will not support or work with financial institutions that have the stated goal of putting us out of work.

And we are not alone. Policy makers in Texas, Alaska, Wyoming, Oklahoma, West Virginia and even New Mexico see the threat the ESG movement, especially now with the backing of the US Treasury Department.

As I point out in the article *First, They Came for Alaska*, Gov. Dunleavy is calling for energy states form an alliance in defense of our natural resources. He is right and North Dakota can play an important role.

Energy discrimination as Mr. Brigham calls it, is real and it is happening. If we play the game, if we kick the can down the road, we will only weaken our own hand. Capital from Wall Street is drying up as the ESG movement, stakeholder capitalism, or by any other name gathers steam. Much better to realize that now and take action while we have some resources available.

Windmill Commons sounds much worse than Buffalo Commons.