

HB 1452 – Testimony by Dustin Gawrylow (Lobbyist #266) North Dakota Watchdog Network

The Clean Sustainable Energy Fund is an open-ended expansion of government.

Based on the makeup of the voting committee, the deck is clearly stacked for using the money and the government program to bailout, subsidize, and prop-up traditional energy. And since we have multiple bills this session to help the coal industry, one can only assume it is to help that industry. At least for a little while.

It is also becoming apparent that the goal of the fund is to use state tax dollars to create a government program that will subsidize speculative technology with the goal of making fossil fuel based energy more marketable to states that have decided they don't want such power sources.

It should also be noted that even though the fiscal note on this bill does not say so, there is a \$40m/biennium continuing appropriation to this Clean Sustainable Energy Fund hiding in the Legacy Earnings Stream bill (HB 1380), as well as the proposed \$250 million grant funded by bonded debt in HB 1431

The Legacy Earnings portion of HB 1380 should either be triggered by the passage of HB 1452, or the Legacy Fund earnings provisions from HB 1380 should be placed into HB 1452 so that it is clear that HB 1452's fiscal note is not a one-time expense and that this will be an on-going subsidy and government program.

The legislature should say no to growing government, say no to subsidizing one particular industry, and say no protectionist policies that will only buy certain industries a few more year in an export market that no longer wants coal based power.

By eliminating broad based tax burdens, for all industries not just select industries, we can move North Dakota forward and expand the economy as a whole.

I urge a DO NOT PASS on HB 1452, and the portions of HB 1431 and 1380 associated with it.