

1 Chairman Jessica Bell & members of the committee, my name is Scott Skokos and I am
2 testifying on behalf of Dakota Resource Council and our members. Thank you for allowing me
3 to submit written testimony in opposition to SB 2206.

4 Dakota Resource Council (DRC) is a non-partisan grassroots group of landowners, ranchers,
5 farmers, and other citizens. We oppose SB 2206 simply because it is not fair to charge ratepayers
6 for high-risk projects that have been proven around the world to not be economically viable.¹ If
7 other investors or the state decide to take that risk, while we highly recommend otherwise, that is
8 their choice. However, charging ratepayers for those high-risk projects that are not in alignment
9 with the direction our entire nation is going surrounding energy is wrong. Our energy economy is
10 rapidly changing and ratepayers trust that they aren't funding high-risk investments.

11 Take, for example, the Petra Nova carbon sequestration project in Texas, which is likely to not
12 be coming back online after having been mothballed. Petra Nova never captured the anticipated
13 amounts of carbon and was not economically viable.² This is the example that supporters of
14 carbon sequestration in ND like to point to. A failed project is not good evidence to support this
15 bill. Again, if the state and private investors choose to invest in high-risk carbon capture, fine.
16 Ratepayers shouldn't foot the investment.

17 Project Tundra is throwing money at a problem that is a bad long-term investment and that
18 money could instead be used to fund actual retraining and transition funds for coal communities,
19 as is already being done in other states. For more information about why Project Tundra is high-
20 risk and not economically feasible see the recent report titled "Project Tundra: A Step in the
21 Wrong Direction".³

22 I urge the committee to oppose SB 2206 and recommend a **DO NOT PASS** on SB 2206.

¹ http://www.worc.org/media/Too_Good_to_Be_True_Report.pdf

² https://ieefa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Petra-Nova-Mothballing-Post-Mortem_August-2020.pdf

³ https://ieefa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Project-Tundra_A-Step-in-the-Wrong-Direction_September-2020.pdf