

I am providing testimony in support of the Bill SB2295.

Our State and Country is facing a future where carbon-based energy will be penalized domestically and internationally, due to high carbon emissions from our power generation. Carbon taxes will become unavoidable for all farm and industrial products when used nationally, but in particular when exported internationally. Soybeans, Corn, and beets will soon be measured on their carbon contribution, and we shall not additionally jeopardize our future competitiveness and businesses by choosing obsolete energy sources. Farms and property owners shall have the freedom to offset their emissions profile by selling local energy produced at a reasonable rate into the distribution network. One way to mitigate our risky position on goods and services from North Dakota, is to invite private investment with clean energy sources such as solar and wind, thereby minimizing the overall carbon emissions from electricity produced by fossil power plants. This will additionally provide for overall improved energy resiliency and a truly private public partnership in our state. Electrical stability issues will be supported by Natural Gas Power generation until adequate and cost-effective battery solutions are available. Sun and wind sources are the gifts of creation and should not be squandered when these sources are less harmful and competitive technologically is available.

The costliest power will be that of lignite and coal fired power plants due to their high carbon intensity. No amount of flue gas cleaning and carbon sequestration can outweigh the switch to renewables when supported by natural gas combined cycle power plants. It is a fool's errand to invest further in CO2 sequestration when we have a much less carbon intensive energy source beneath our feet.

In North Dakota we are blessed with ample natural gas supplies and the ability of having 50-60 % less carbon emissions*) as compared to other fossil fuels generation when burned. We therefore encourage to develop a plan eliminating coal and lignite over a planned timeline, replacing that energy with Renewables, supported by Natural Gas power generation.

The SB2295 net metering Bill is a first step towards a less risky future for our farms, businesses, and property owners in North Dakota.

*) <https://www.power-eng.com/coal/eia-gas-fired-combined-cycle-now-generates-more-u-s-power-than-coal/>