

2 February 2021

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF NET-METERING BILL: SB2295

As a North Dakotan, who has worked as a solar installer on over 400 solar photovoltaic installations, I am strongly in favor of net-metering.

I worked as a solar installer and licensed electrician in the State of Colorado for 4 years. I went to school for renewable energy and have made this my career. A year ago I returned to my home town of Grand Forks, ND, and have continued installing solar here with other colleagues here at home and in the Bismarck area. It is very challenging to work in renewable energy here in ND because, quite frankly, our policies are inhibiting our citizens from participating in clean energy. In fact, all states receive grades for their solar policies from various energy experts, and consistently, ND receives an "F" for it's poor solar - and even anti-solar - policies at a state level. Such as the Annual State Rankings Report from Alternative Energy HQ. We are dead last in solar production, despite the fact that we have such enormous solar potential. North Dakota is rated very high in days of sunlight and solar energy potential of the 50 states, so there is no reason for us to be behind everyone - other than our lack of solar-friendly policies. Minnesota has on average much better solar buyback rates and net-metering is more widespread, and as a result, Minnesota has over 4,000 people working in the solar industry.

There is no reason we can not diversify our state's energy economy. We now have an opportunity to change this by creating fair policies that give our citizens the chance to generate clean energy and receive fair compensation when those electrons are fed back into the grid. This bill is one step in the right direction - and long overdue.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kyle Leake