



# INDIGENIZED ENERGY

March 19th, 2021

Senate Energy &  
Natural Resources Committee  
600 E Boulevard Ave, Bismarck, ND 58505

Hello, Chairman Curt Kreun and members of the committee. My name is Cody Two Bears, I am from Cannon Ball, on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation. I am the Executive Director of Indigenized Energy, and the owner of the largest solar farm in the State of North Dakota to date.

As a person who works with world leaders in solar technology, such as Tesla, Solar City & Cypress Creek Renewables, I have seen what they're doing with solar, backing it up with large scale energy storage systems and smart grid improvements. They're advancing rapidly. In comparison, the engineers that helped build our farm were shocked with how far behind we are here in North Dakota with our energy policies regarding solar energy and our attitudes toward renewables.

There is clearly a strong need for a "clean sustainable energy authority" like this bill suggests. However, there are two large problems with this bill: First, there are no voting members from solar, wind, geothermal or other truly clean sustainable energy authorities on this "clean sustainable energy authority." Yet, fossil fuels are well-represented. If we think we can fool people and the federal government, by calling fossil fuels "clean and sustainable" we are short-sighted. Banks don't want to invest in fossil fuels and customers increasingly don't want to buy it. As an energy exporting state, that's a recipe for future economic failure.

Without solar, wind, geothermal, and clean energies having equal representation and voting power in this authority, this bill will do nothing to prepare North Dakota to thrive in the future energy market. The future market is one of renewables coupled with energy storage and a smart grid that can react to quick shifts in energy loads. Research and development into those smart grid improvements and storage would be a wise investment.

Page 1 of 2

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Second, this bill does not include any Native American (Indigenous) representation. This is a problem, especially considering our Indigenous people are leading the sustainable energy movement here in North Dakota in many ways: For example, the largest solar farm in North Dakota is Indigenous-owned on Standing Rock, the greenest college in North Dakota is Indigenous - it is Turtle Mountain Community College, which is 99% renewable already with lots of geothermal and wind energy, and more renewables coming. While even in the fossil fuel sector, Ft. Berthold Indian Reservation pays millions of dollars into North Dakota coffers in oil tax revenues, yet it is not represented here and doesn't have a seat at the table in this bill. This is a problem.

I can not support the bill as it is, but if it had equal representation with sustainable (renewable) energies, such as solar, wind and geothermal - and if it had transparency as well as Native American representation then I could support this legislation.

I ask you to vote no on HB 1452. Thank you. I stand for any questions.

Page 2 of 2

Sincerely,

Cody Two Bears, Executive Director  
Indigenized Energy  
Enrolled Member, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

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