



March 19, 2021

Chairman Kreun and Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Members,

On behalf of the members of the Lignite Energy Council, I am submitting testimony today in support of House Bill 1452 which would create the Clean Sustainable Energy Authority and the Clean Sustainable Energy Fund.

The framework of HB1452 would build upon the success of the Lignite Research Council (LRC) to create a "super council" that would boost all sectors of North Dakota's energy industry by providing substantial opportunities for research and development combined with the flexibility necessary to be able to best receive and utilize private and public investment within our state.

The LRC has been supporting substantial research and development investments in carbon capture projects, which could spur a new market for carbon dioxide, and rare earth minerals found in lignite. Both areas could have global significance if our projects are proven successful. Soon, there may be carbon capture projects that could utilize additional funding in the commercialization stage where a project is putting together a financial package in order to be built and begin operations.

Our experience has shown how a proposal like HB1452 will greatly help bold clean energy projects achieve the proper vetting, funding, and support from the private and public sectors to find the way forward to become a reality and provide significant returns for our state.

For these reasons, the Lignite Energy Council supports HB1452 and we respectfully ask that the committee provide this legislation with a favorable "Do-Pass" recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jason Bohrer
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Lignite Energy Council



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