

Testimony in support of SB2301
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Organizing Committee, LiUNA local 563
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Chairman Kreun and members of the committee, I am testifying in support of SB2301. My Name is Evan Whiteford and I have been a member of Local 563 MN/ND for 15 years. I have worked the Oil and Gas industry my whole career, installing pipelines throughout the country. I have been in ND since 2009 first a pipe liner and as of 2015 a marketing representative for the Laborers Union. I have been a huge supporter of all areas in the energy industry. Also have a small ranch in Williams county, the heart of oil country.

Energy jobs are lines important to our community. The population in western ND has grown beyond belief and these people have moved here to create a new life. Recently the oil industry has seen a drastic decline and the people are forced to seek employment in other industries. I've had the pleasure of meeting several people in my area and the discussion comes up regularly on where the oilfield is heading. Meanwhile the wind industry developed two wind farms pretty much in our back yards. The people that lost their oilfield jobs seen a sign of relief for means of an income only to find out that they would not be hired. Instead, these jobs were given to out of state workers.

These jobs should have gone to some local candidates. After speaking to land owners in the area they stated that it was all out of state license plates speeding around the country roads and they too agree that something needs to be done about local hire. ND has a history of people leaving. Prior to the oil boom there wasn't much to choose from in the job market. Now we have oil and the growing industry of renewable energy. We need these jobs in order to exist in ND. I don't want to see what happens when a boom town becomes a ghost town. If these projects are going to continue then we need to start think about the people that live here.

I urge you to vote YES on SB2301.

Thank you,

Evan Whiteford