

Testimony to support SB2301

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Dear Chairman Kreun and members of the committee,

Thank you for taking the time to review and consider my testimony on behalf of Senate Bill 2301. My name is Meagan Schrader. I am a registered nurse and have been a resident of North Dakota for most of my life. I am writing to you in full support of SB 2301.

I can recall, years ago, when North Dakota was experiencing the oil boom. We had a significant number of individuals travel from out of state to help maintain oil and gas companies. When that oil boom was over, these out of state workers moved back home. Not only did the money they earned go with them, but they also collected unemployment from North Dakota. This money didn't come back to our communities. Instead, it was recirculated in many other states. This had a large effect on North Dakota and almost made our unemployment go bankrupt. We cannot let this repeat itself. We have to avoid allowing other industries in North Dakota hire out of state workers to collect money from North Dakota unemployment and spend that money in other states.

If we start focusing on local hire, we are ensuring that the money earned from wages and unemployment return back into our communities. In the past year, I have seen businesses close or struggle to keep their doors open. I have seen employees of these businesses struggle every month to provide for their families because of the decrease in wages or simply because businesses could no longer afford to keep them employed. Supporting local hire would put that money back into the pockets of our entrepreneurs and their employees.

To add to that, we have very significant changes coming; to include the closure of one of North Dakota's largest coal-fired power plants. This is going to leave many North Dakotan's jobless. Supporting this bill will allow these individuals to have an opportunity to learn a new trade and continue to work in North Dakota. In turn, we would see a decrease in our unemployment numbers and an increase in North Dakota residents being home with their families every night.

It is time that we start taking care of the people that make North Dakota such a great place to live and I believe that approving this bill is a perfect way to start.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Meagan Schrader, RN