

Good Morning Chairman Kreun and members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee

I am honored to be before you today to introduce House concurrent resolution 3025, a resolution urging the federal government to refrain from enacting regulations that threaten the reliability and affordability of electric power in North Dakota, and to increase support for research, development and deployment for next generation carbon-based energy generation.

It's no secret to North Dakotans that affordable, reliable electrical generation has been good for all residents of our state. Our 3 coal counties have traditionally ranked at the top of the scale for the highest paying jobs in the state, and the lignite coal industry has provided a large number of high paying jobs. In addition, we've consistently ranked high in ambient air quality.

The quality of life, the close attention to environmental issues, the economics of North Dakota lignite are all excellent reasons to urge the current administration to consider these factors before implementing policy that will threaten this industry.

I'll take any questions.