

**House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Hearing on HB1315: Factors to be Considered When Evaluating Applications and
Designation for Sites, Corridors, and Routes
February 2, 2023**

Chairman Porter, members of the committee, my name is **Jeremy Eckroth**. I live in **Bismarck, ND**. I am writing **in favor** of House Bill 1315 which would grant the North Dakota Public Service Commission (“NDPSC”) the authority to consider impacts on reliability, integrity, or resilience of the existing electric supply and distribution system during their permitting oversight.

Currently, no agency has the authority or responsibility of ensuring reliability of our electric grid in our regulatory system. The trend of retiring baseload dispatchable generation sources and replacing them with intermittent and unreliable generation sources is not sustainable. Electric grids are under great strain and it is becoming more common for the U.S. to face rolling blackouts due to “unprecedented” weather-related record high demand. The problem is that these weather events are not “unprecedented”. These weather events are not unlike others in the past, the difference now is that poorly guided regulations and subsidies have forced too much dependable, baseload power off the grid. These blackouts will be more common as more dependable, baseload electric generation from coal and natural gas is forced off the grid.

I believe that the NDPSC should have the authority to consider reliability during the approval processes. Adding additional generation to the grid with no stated customer in an area of known transmission congestion is a recipe for failure and only continues to exacerbate the problem.

North Dakota’s commerce and livelihoods depend on safe, reliable, and affordable electric power generation. This bill is a good start in the right direction for the State of North Dakota. I encourage a “**Do-Pass**” recommendation. Thank you for your consideration.