

**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 **Jerry Obenauer**. I live in **Hazen, 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.

There is currently a gaping hole in our regulatory system in which no one has the authority/responsibility of ensuring reliability of our electric grid. Electric grids are dodging bullets of energy insufficiency with greater and greater frequency. The trend of retiring baseload dispatchable generation sources and replacing them with intermittent generation sources is not sustainable in a world that is supposedly concerned with “sustainability”. North Dakota’s commerce and livelihoods depend on safe, reliable, and affordable electric power. It is a necessity of the Northern Plains.

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.