



North Dakota House of Representatives

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Representative Anna S. Novak

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COMMITTEES:
Education
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Concurrent Resolution 3013

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee - for the record, my name is Anna Novak, Representative for District 33. All of what we recognize as Coal Country is located within the bounds of District 33.

My husband is a coal miner, as was my brother and so was my dad. Most everyone back home either works in the industry or in a service-related industry. The coal industry is the life-blood of my district! But unfortunately, fossil fuels are under attack by the federal government.

You have before you House Concurrent Resolution 3013. This resolution urges the federal government to refrain from enacting policies that compromise reliable and affordable electricity for North Dakota residents. It also encourages research and development of carbon capture technologies for electricity generation sources. A version of this concurrent resolution has been introduced in the legislature for many years. It essentially reaffirms the legislature's support for the state's lignite industry because of the jobs, tax revenue, reliable and affordable electricity it provides to the great state of North Dakota. The concurrent resolution typically receives broad bipartisan support and I hope that tradition continues this session.

I urge a Do Pass vote on Concurrent Resolution 3013 and will stand for any questions.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3013

Introduced by

Representatives Novak, D. Anderson, Bosch, Heinert, Mock, J. Olson, Porter, Thomas

Senator Patten

1 A concurrent resolution urging the federal government to refrain from enacting regulations that
2 threaten the reliability and affordability of electric power in North Dakota and to increase support
3 for research, development, and deployment for next generation carbon-based energy
4 generation.

5 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota has at least an 800-year supply of economically recoverable
6 lignite coal at current production rates and is the second largest oil producer in the United
7 States; and

8 **WHEREAS**, because of energy-intensive industries, weather extremes, and transportation
9 requirements, North Dakota is ranked third in the nation in energy expenditures per capita
10 based on 2020 data used in the latest rankings from the United States Energy Information
11 Administration; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the North Dakota lignite coal industry generated over 63 percent of the
13 electricity in the state in 2020 according to the United States Energy Information Administration
14 and provides affordable electricity to more than 2 million families throughout the upper Midwest;
15 and

16 **WHEREAS**, the lignite coal industry contributes more than \$5.4 billion in total business
17 activity to North Dakota; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the lignite coal industry employs 13,000 individuals with some of the highest
19 wages in the state; and

20 **WHEREAS**, economic analysis performed by North Dakota State University agribusiness
21 and applied economics researchers estimates a new 500 megawatt, coal-based electric
22 generating facility would create \$54.3 million in personal income, \$40 million in retail sales, and
23 \$173.7 million in total business activity each year; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the current value of the state's existing coal-based infrastructure is
25 \$18.6 billion; and

Sixty-eighth
Legislative Assembly

1 sense for the producers and consumers of electricity and byproducts derived from North Dakota
2 lignite; and

3 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the federal government is urged to increase its
4 partnership with the state of North Dakota and industry to develop technological solutions to
5 enable the continuation of lignite-based electric generation; and

6 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution
7 to the President of the United States, the Administrator of the United States Environmental
8 Protection Agency, the Secretary of the Department of Energy, the Secretary of the Department
9 of the Interior, and each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.