

House Concurrent Resolution No. 3015 Testimony in Support Kristine Anderson, Regulatory Affairs & Corporate Counsel Dakota Natural Gas, LLC House Energy and Natural Resources Committee February 9, 2023

Chairman Porter and members of the Committee, my name is Kristine Anderson. I am the in-house corporate attorney for Dakota Natural Gas, LLC, and I also handle regulatory affairs for the company. DNG supports House Concurrent Resolution No. 3015.

Reliable energy is a vital component of society, impacting everything from quality of life to human progress, and that will remain the case in perpetuity. As North Dakota, the country, and the world consider the way that energy is sourced and produced, the focus cannot be only on renewable energy innovation – it must also include realistic perspectives on current and future energy needs and the sustainable energy sources and will fulfill those needs.

Natural gas is considered by many around the globe to be a primary ingredient in the world's transition to a cleaner energy future. It is abundantly available throughout the United States, and most of the natural gas used throughout the county is domestically produced. Even though it is a fossil fuel, it is cleaner and more efficient than traditional fuels, producing significantly less pollution and greenhouse gases than burning coal or petroleum products; and, appliances, vehicles, and power plants that are powered by natural gas are also highly efficient, making natural gas a cleaner energy option without sacrificing reliability. Additionally, because natural gas requires minimal processing and is efficiently delivered via pipelines, natural gas production and delivery consumes less energy than that used for many other fuel sources, which is something that must also be considered when evaluating the environmental impact of energy sources. Similarly, nuclear energy is a clean energy source that provides a reliable source of power and will help foster sustainable development and energy transition.

Transforming energy infrastructure and transitioning to different energy sources is terribly complex and will be very time consuming. Reducing the discussion of the same to simple narratives that "old" energy sources are bad is both misguided and dangerous. Natural gas and nuclear energy can and will be positive contributions to energy transition by helping to replace energy sources that are, in fact, environmentally unfriendly while, as the same time, continuing to assure that people at home and across the globe have reliable, safe, and affordable energy options that also provide significant economic benefits across sectors, from job creation to low-cost energy to increasing community economic development.

Natural gas and nuclear energy have played a critical role in reducing emissions for many years and they can continue to provide even greater value to the principles of energy transition and economic development while safeguarding reliable, affordable energy and its economic benefits. I respectfully request that you support HCR 3015.