

Chairman Patten and members of the Senate Energy Committee,

My name is Lori Flemmer, and I'm a longtime resident of Mercer County. My family moved from Mandan to Mercer County in 1978 when the power plants were being built, and if you were around back then, you'd know that there was plenty of controversy over those projects – can you imagine what North Dakota would be like without our coal-fired power plants and coal mines? Over the past couple of years, we've had some glimpses of what could happen if we don't support our coal-fired baseload plants. Coal Creek Station was on the brink of closure; Dakota Gasification Co. had some tough times as well. It's been stated many times that carbon capture technologies are necessary if we are going to continue to operate these plants.

I was fortunate to meet my husband, who was raised a farmer and to put down roots here. My husband worked and our 2 sons are currently working in the energy industry in addition to working our family farm. Our close friends also work in agriculture and energy. That's reality in coal country! Our co-workers are more than just co-workers, they are our close friends and family – it's a very tight-knit community.

Now we have a tremendous opportunity to help ND ag producers and our energy communities not only survive, but thrive. The development of carbon capture is vitally important to North Dakota's 2 leading industries, Power & Agriculture.

In recent headlines the State of ND is seeking to draw people to come & work & put down roots in our state. In passage of these bills that are brought before you it would hinder the growth of work opportunities to continue to grow our great state of North Dakota.

Passage of bills like Senate Bill 2212 would threaten the economic stability of our communities, our great state, and our 2 largest industries. I'm also opposed to Senate Bills 2209, 2228, 2317, and 2314 for the same reasons.

I am asking on behalf of myself, my family, my friends, and my community that you defeat this legislation.

Thank you!