

**Senate Energy and Natural Resources**  
**Chairman Dale Patten**  
**February 2, 2023**

**Testimony**  
**Jay Standish**  
**Mayor, City of New Town**

**SB 2366**

Good morning Chairman Patten and members of the Committee. I would like to introduce myself to this committee: My name is Jay Standish and I am the duly elected Mayor of the City of New Town, North Dakota, as well as a lifetime resident and an enrolled member of the Three Affiliated Tribes. I am here this morning to ask that this committee give its approval to the legislative management study for accessibility of natural gas to small communities.

There appears to be little hope for the citizens of my community and other smaller communities across this state to get access to natural gas. The same natural gas we see being flared off in our backyards 24 hours each day. I wonder how many homes could be heated with the gas being flared in the few minutes I speak to you.

We must have a way to get the natural gas from the wells to our homes in rural North Dakota. The communities, in southern Mountrail County, of New Town, Parshall, and Plaza have joined ranks to seek a solution that is economically feasible. We have held joint meetings with our local legislators, our mayors, city council members, representatives from MDU, and Tribal Chairman Mark Fox and Tribal Representative Monica Mayer from Fort Berthold. We have also discussed funding options with the Bank of North Dakota and have heard advice from bond counsel.

Unfortunately, as it stands now, no feasible options exist, without more state involvement. The proposed management study would aid my community possibly solving our need for access to natural gas.

I understand that this body has helped store away \$150 million for natural gas transmission lines from recovery act funding. Maybe a re-direction and emphasis should be made to getting distribution lines to the city limits of small communities. Use our state's natural gas for our citizens, and not try and get it sent out of state to other customers.

Maybe that is not possible, but please support a study that looks into this and other accessibility options or obstacles. We need informed information, obtained in a professional manner. We believe this study is the best way forward.

Thank-you for my time to present here today. A thank you to Senator Jordon Kannianen, and the other legislators for proposing this Bill.