

Testimony on House Bill 1258
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The North Dakota Transmission Authority (Authority) was created by the North Dakota Legislative Assembly in 2005 at the request of the North Dakota Industrial Commission. The Authority's mission is to facilitate the development of transmission infrastructure in North Dakota. The Authority was established to serve as a catalyst for new investment in transmission by facilitating, financing, developing and/or acquiring transmission to accommodate energy production. The Authority is actively engaged in seeking ways to improve North Dakota's energy export capabilities along with transmission capabilities within the state.

Accordingly, we believe the legislature should strongly consider any legislation that ensures the regulatory and permitting environment within ND is predictable and stable across the state, without the imposition of varying standards of development by local governments. Most strategic transmission projects don't happen just one county or township. They traverse the state. And to encourage development of transmission in ND, for the reliability, resiliency, and growth of the grid, the legislature should support clear, objective, state-wide standards for development. The Public Service Commission is well equipped to host fair, objective, publicly accessible, and technically accurate proceedings for transmission projects.

The authority is also an important voice for North Dakota throughout the various RTOs that cover ND—MISO and SPP. We play an active role in advocating for ND's needs in those markets. MISO and SPP have both recognized the state-level importance of a strong, reliable grid, which as we've informed the committee earlier this session, involves many new transmission projects. Building out these projects of importance to the grid becomes much more difficult if local government impose varying—and in some cases, prohibitive—standards of development.