

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Andrea Pfennig, and I am the Vice President of Government Affairs for the Greater North Dakota Chamber. GNDC is North Dakota's largest statewide business advocacy organization, with membership represented by small and large businesses, local chambers, and trade and industry associations across the state. We stand in **support** of House Bill 1258.

Our members support a business-friendly regulatory environment that is consistent, efficient, cost-effective and promotes investment in infrastructure. Streamlined policies and processes are important to ensure timely permitting of infrastructure projects.

We feel that putting authority of siting transmission lines with the Public Service Commission will maximize consistency and efficiency. This will mirror the existing siting process for gas and liquid pipelines, enabling a uniform approach to infrastructure in the state. Additionally, the PSC has the expertise and procedures to ensure a comprehensive approach to large infrastructure projects that have far reaching impacts.

Transmission is an important component to the availability and delivery of low-cost generation resources to customers. This helps facilitate economic growth and employment opportunities, as well as tax revenues for the state, counties, and townships.

Smart approaches to infrastructure regulation are vital to ensure that North Dakota has the infrastructure necessary to support and grow a thriving economy. We hope you will support HB 1258.

