



January 30, 2025

Chairman Porter and Members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

On behalf of the Lignite Energy Council, we submit this testimony in opposition to House Bill 1292, which seeks to revoke the common carrier status of carbon dioxide (CO₂) pipelines. This legislation threatens North Dakota's leadership in the carbon economy and jeopardizes the future of critical energy projects that drive economic growth and innovation in our state.

The North Dakota Legislature wisely recognized the importance of CO₂ pipelines in 1993 by granting them common carrier status. This designation enabled transformative projects such as the Dakota Gasification Company's Synfuels Plant pipeline, which has successfully transported CO₂ to Saskatchewan for enhanced oil recovery (EOR) for over 25 years. The continued success of CO₂ infrastructure is essential for future projects like Project Tundra, which could also utilize these pipelines.

Stripping CO₂ pipelines of their common carrier status would deter investment, create regulatory uncertainty, and weaken North Dakota's competitive edge. Future CO₂ pipelines transporting carbon from coal plants to the Bakken oil fields will be critical for sustaining tax revenues from oil production. Enhanced oil recovery, enabled by these pipelines, maximizes the value of North Dakota's oil resources while creating market opportunities for coal plants to provide CO₂ for this process. This synergy between coal and oil strengthens both industries, ensuring long-term economic stability and reinforcing our state's energy leadership.

To protect North Dakota's energy future, economic growth, and the utilization of carbon as a valuable resource, I urge the committee to issue a Do Not Pass recommendation on House Bill 1292.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jonathan Fortner
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