

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 **opposition** of House Bill 1414.

We support a business-friendly regulatory environment that is consistent, efficient, cost-effective and promotes investment in infrastructure.

This bill would remove common carrier status and the ability to utilize eminent domain for carbon dioxide. Section 5 of this bill would repeal NDCC 38-22-10 resulting in elimination of the entire section of code outlining carbon dioxide underground storage.

Carbon dioxide pipelines are essential to the continued growth of a variety of key industries in North Dakota. Infrastructure projects take a very long time and significant amounts of money. We are competing for investments. If we were to change the rules at this stage, it would have a chilling effect on the attraction of capital. A stable and supportive policy framework is vital in order to have a strong business climate that encourages investment from the private sector.

While private negotiations with landowners are the preferred method for acquiring necessary easements or property rights for public projects, we recognize that mechanisms such as amalgamation and eminent domain, when used appropriately, are essential to ensure the continued development of North Dakota's infrastructure and economy.

It's important to note that both pipelines and the industries they support provide significant revenue to the state and political subdivisions. Why would we put policies in place that would restrict additional and future revenues?

Our state has worked long and hard to be a leader when it comes to innovation, especially in the energy sector, and we are reaping the benefits. We have a healthy economy and a multitude of earning opportunities for our citizens. Now is not the time to go backwards. We need carbon dioxide to retain its common carrier status in order to keep moving forward. We hope you will oppose HB 1414.

