

Dear members of House Energy and Natural Resources, I am writing in support of House Bill 1554.

I urge a "Do Pass" vote on 1554. The two provisions of the bill: 1. remove the requirement for 7 votes to forward an OHF application to the Industrial Commission and 2. add the Department of Water Resources to the OHF Advisory board are both positive changes to the law.

The current 7 vote requirement to forward applications to the Industrial Commission, at times, has not allowed good projects to get a favorable recommendation when less than the 14 board members are present. Even though a majority of the board members present may vote for an application, the 7-vote requirement hinders potentially good projects from advancing.

We have received numerous applications that apply to North Dakota water resources. Technical input for the Department would be helpful to provide clarity of applications to OHF board members.

I urge a "Do Pass" of HB 1554