

House Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Testimony on HB 1574 (IN SUPPORT)

Kurt Swenson, Beulah, ND District 33

Chairman Porter, Vice Chairs Anderson and Novak and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Kurt Swenson from Beulah.

Today, the Industrial Commission has NO authority to review, regulate, administer or approve any type of permit related to the “capture” portion of these facilities. Just as NDIC does not regulate the production and capture of CO2 from power plants, ethanol plants or the like, they have no regulating authority over facilities which capture CO2 from our atmosphere.

As you may know, there are currently no Direct Air Capture Plants in North Dakota. While at least one has been proposed which was to be in Morton County, it was met with great concern by local residents surrounding the facility due to light and noise pollution, safety concerns from suffocating CO2 releases, dust and traffic related concerns.

This bill simply clarifies and memorializes today’s lack of Industrial Commission authority - allowing these types of facilities to be best handled in concert with local political subdivisions who are closest to the affected people with their zoning ordinances – such as Morton County is currently developing.

I would like to recommend an amendment that would strike the expiration date as it is unnecessary.

I respectfully ask you to vote DO PASS vote on HB 1574.