

To the members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Dr. Travis Kuhlka, I am a beef cattle veterinarian and a local landowner, from District 36. I am writing in SUPPORT to HB 1574.

Due to federal government tax incentives, there has been a drastic increase in out of state agencies trying to place new, unproven, and in many situations, dangerous green energy projects in rural areas. In most cases there are no ordinances or zoning parameters in the books, which are known by these outside interests. North Dakota is a great state to live in, one of the positive aspects is the low population of the rural areas, hence a common reason these projects are aimed for us.

With no regulations in place green energy projects can get approved with fanfare for the cash they hand out to landowners and local towns. The unseen risk to the lives and health of the people living nearby is real, but disregarded thanks to the lack of critical ordinances.

I live in Mortin County, where recently a moratorium was enacted to allow zoning ordinances to be drawn from scratch related to Direct Air Carbon Capture. There were no regulations in existence guiding the zoning or permitting for this project. In this example a company from Denver, CO wanted to place an unproven, first of its kind facility in a rural area. They garnered local support through large payouts to landowners, but in the end could not show proof of nor be honest when questioned on the safety of the technology.

Currently zoning and permitting authorities are in the hands of the local municipalities and not the Industrial Commission. This bill is important in clarifying that.

I recommend a DO PASS. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Travis Kuhlka

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