



January 30, 2025

Chairman Porter and House Energy and Natural Resource Committee Members,

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to House Bill 1574 on behalf of the Lignite Energy Council. Prohibiting direct air carbon dioxide capture (DAC) projects would limit significant economic opportunities for North Dakota, especially for coal plants and related industries.

Direct air capture (DAC) technology requires significant power, presenting a valuable opportunity for coal plants to supply this energy and support their operations. Moreover, DAC could serve as a reliable future source of carbon dioxide for enhanced oil recovery (EOR) projects. These initiatives would maximize the utilization of pore space, boost oil production, generate additional tax revenue for the state, and bolster local economies.

Eliminating the possibility of DAC projects would discourage private investment, restrict innovation, and harm North Dakota's competitive position in the emerging carbon economy. State policy should remain technology-neutral and support efforts that encourage growth in both coal and oil industries.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to oppose House Bill 1574 with a Do Not Pass recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jonathan Fortner  
VP of Government Relations  
Lignite Energy Council