

**HB 1574: Two Year Moratorium on Direct Air to Air CO2 Capture**  
**House Energy & Natural Resources Committee**  
**January 30, 2015**  
**Presented by Rep. SuAnn Olson**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, please note that I am presenting HB 1574 with an amendment.

HB 1574 is a bill that puts a 2-year moratorium on Direct Air Carbon Capture. The bill amends Sec. 11-11 and 38-22-03 and puts a stay on this type of project until July 31, 2027. This type of project is new and needs some time for the development of local ordinances. In addition, with the change in the federal administration, I think it makes sense to also allow some time to see the direction they want to take regarding these projects.

Dawn Shepherd has provided detailed testimony about what one county faced when a project was proposed that they were unprepared for. She has been ill and is unable to attend today. There were so many things to consider that the county simply wasn't prepared to address. Water issues, noise, viewshed, traffic safety, highway wear and impact on surrounding landowners and neighboring counties all must be considered. This is not something that is thrown together on the fly. One county has been working on their ordinances since last summer and still has a way to go. Calling for a two-year moratorium will allow counties to begin or continue thoughtful dialogue and the work of crafting ordinances that consider all the issues that will cover new projects that were unheard of just a few short years ago.

A two-year moratorium will also give us time to understand the agricultural impact of direct air capture. North Dakota is an agricultural state. Our pastures and cropland need CO<sub>2</sub>. Do rural areas, where these projects will be placed, have an excess of CO<sub>2</sub>? These projects will not generally be placed next to an industrial process that is generating CO<sub>2</sub>. So, shouldn't we require measuring the level of CO<sub>2</sub> in the air to ensure that we don't drive levels below what is optimum for plant growth? Do we have adequate guidelines for measuring CO<sub>2</sub> in the air? Should these projects be banned from agricultural zones? These are valid questions that should be answered. We owe it to our farmers and ranchers. Agriculture is big business in our state, and we have a duty to protect it.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I respectfully urge you to give HB 11574 as amended a DO PASS recommendation. Thank you.