

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Arik Spencer, President and CEO OF the Greater North Dakota Chamber. GNDC is North Dakota's largest statewide business advocacy organization, with membership represented by small and large businesses, local chambers, and trade and industry associations across the state. We stand in **opposition** to House Bill 1574.

HB 1574, which would prohibit direct-air carbon capture projects, changes North Dakota's well-thought-out energy regulatory environment by stopping projects in development and flies in the face of the regulatory certainty our members expect from all government levels. This bill is not just about direct-air carbon capture projects; more concerningly, it sends a message to other industries that ND is a risky state to invest in because we lack regulatory certainty, an issue we have seen at the federal level but not the state level thus far.

Our state has worked for decades to lead the nation when it comes to innovation, especially in the energy sector. Now is not the time to go backward or for the legislature to pick winners and losers. Smart approaches to infrastructure are vital to ensure that North Dakota has the infrastructure necessary to support and grow a thriving economy. We hope you will **OPPOSE** HB 1574.