



# North Dakota House of Representatives

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## Representative Anna Novak

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## COMMITTEES:

Education  
Energy and Natural Resources (Vice Chair)

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Chairman Porter and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Anna Novak, representative from district 33.

I am proud to sponsor HB1592, which modernizes the Lignite Research Council (LRC) to align with the Oil and Gas Research Council and the Renewable Energy Council. This update ensures the Lignite Research Council operates with greater clarity, efficiency, and transparency, improving how it supports research and development in North Dakota's lignite industry.

The Lignite Research Council has played a vital role in advancing innovation, protecting jobs, and strengthening our energy economy. However, its structure was established in 1987 and needs to reflect today's best practices. HB1592 clarifies its processes, funding mechanisms, and relationship with the Industrial Commission, ensuring the council can effectively support industry advancements. This bill is about cutting red tape and making the LRC more effective in funding lignite research that benefits our state. I urge a Do Pass recommendation to keep North Dakota at the forefront of energy innovation and economic growth.

Jonathan Fortner will walk you through some of the technical pieces of the bill, but I'm happy to answer any questions you may have for me. Thank you.