

Chairman Patten and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

The Power Companies of North Dakota ("PCND") urges a "Do Pass" recommendation on HB 1025.

PCND is a coalition of the state's leading shareholder-owned gas and electric utilities. Our members include MDU Resources Group, Xcel Energy, Otter Tail Power Company, and ALLETE. Together, PCND members serve over 427,000 North Dakota customers, employ over 1,200 North Dakotans, and manage significant power generation and transmission infrastructure across our state.

Today, we express PCND's strong support for HB 1025, the advanced nuclear energy legislative management study and appropriation. This strategic study will allow North Dakota to assess the feasibility, siting, and deployment of advanced nuclear power plants and address the most critical factors, including site locations, electric grid connectivity, land use considerations, and economic impacts. By exploring advanced nuclear energy, North Dakota reaffirms its position as a national energy leader and its commitment to adopting innovative energy technologies that benefit its citizens.

PCND members are eager to contribute to the interim study by offering technical expertise and support to ensure the study's success. We believe this effort will pave the way for leveraging advanced nuclear energy to help our member companies continue to deliver affordable, safe, and reliable energy services to North Dakotans.

Accordingly, we strongly urge a "Do Pass" recommendation for HB 1025.

Thank you, Chairman Patten and committee members, for your time and consideration.