

1 **TESTIMONY OF DAVID HOGUE IN SUPPORT OF HB 1025**
2 **SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**
3 **10:30 AM**
4 **March 6, 2025**

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6 Good morning Chairman Patten and members of the Senate Energy and Natural
7 Resources Committee. My name is David Hogue. I am a North Dakota state senator
8 representing District 38, which includes northwest Minot and the city of Burlington. I
9 appear before your committee to seek support for House Bill 1025.

10 HB 1025 is a product of the interim Energy Development and Transmission
11 Committee ("EDT"). The EDT was given a full range of study subjects during the last
12 interim, including a broad directive to study the development of nuclear energy within
13 the state of North Dakota. As we began our study of all EDT's assigned studies, we
14 realized that the Committee could not fully devote the necessary time to adequately
15 study the potential for development of nuclear energy in the state of North Dakota. We
16 toured the Coal Creek plant owned and operated by Rainbow Energy near Center,
17 North Dakota. We visited the EERC in Grand Forks and reviewed the projects that the
18 EERC is working on. We also toured the Dakota Gasification plant owned by Basin
19 Electric. Finally, we arranged for a tour of Xcel's nuclear facility in Monticello,
20 Minnesota. The Xcel tour was a highly informative review of the facility and its
21 integration with the community of Monticello.

22 We came to a consensus that the study of nuclear energy must be on North
23 Dakota's energy development agenda and that the complexity and rigors of nuclear

1 energy development required a study all its own that should be on-going, akin to other
2 standing interim committees, such as the Water Topics Overview Committee.

3 HB 1025 proposes a mandatory study of the siting considerations, land use
4 suitability, and electrical grid connectivity, among other issues. The bill contains an
5 appropriation of \$ 300,000 because the Energy Development and Transmission
6 Committee is aware that expertise in studying development of nuclear energy is not
7 organic to our state agencies. We also invite financial participation from the private
8 sector and we thought this would be important as it will help the state measure the
9 interest from the private sector in studying the development of nuclear energy in the
10 state of North Dakota.

11 As you may know there is growing interest in the development of nuclear energy
12 around the world. In the United States, nuclear reactors provide approximately 20% of
13 US electricity. The nation's first new reactor was completed last year in Georgia and
14 plans are in the works to reopen closed reactors in Michigan, Iowa, Pennsylvania, and
15 South Carolina. Just across our northern border, a company called SaskPower is in an
16 eight-year planning process for a small modular reactor to be located in the Estevan
17 area in the mid 2030s.

18 President Trump has pledged to fast track permits for new kinds of small modular
19 reactors under development. Without doubt the regulatory environment for nuclear
20 energy is undergoing significant change. North Dakota needs to study nuclear energy
21 to determine whether it has a future in our energy portfolio. Thank you Mr. Chairman
22 and committee members for your attention to this matter.

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