



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 SB 2116.

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 SB 2116, the bill related to public hearings for energy conversion and transmission facilities. This bill allows for a more efficient and cost-effective siting process while maintaining the critical public participation components.

Under the current framework separate technical-style hearings must be held in each county affected by proposed facilities. While this approach ensures public input, it often results in redundant proceedings, delayed timelines, and increased costs for both the state and developers. SB 2116 addresses these inefficiencies by allowing for a single technical hearing while maintaining a public input session in each county.

By balancing efficiency and public engagement, SB 2116 ensures that critical energy infrastructure projects can move forward in a more timely, cost-effective manner while still maintaining robust public participation.

As such, we strongly urge a “Do Pass” recommendation on SB 2116.

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