

Chairman Patten, members of the committee, on behalf of the Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC) we appreciate this opportunity to offer comments regarding Senate Bill 2188. The EERC is a leading developer of cleaner, more efficient energy and environmental technologies to address critical energy challenges. Since its inception in 2021, the Clean Sustainable Energy Authority (CSEA) has played an important role in our shared goal of developing technological advancements and deploying innovative energy projects in the State of North Dakota.

As of 2022, North Dakota was 8th in total energy production, producing 4.114 quads of energy – over 4 trillion BTUs. The state has the 3rd highest per capita GDP in the nation and has the 8th lowest retail electric prices. The success we have enjoyed in powering our state, region, and nation is a testament to the legislature’s forward thinking and investment in energy research and development. The establishment of the CSEA provided important assistance to move projects past the development pathway and to commercialization, where North Dakotans can realize the benefits of jobs, energy production, and tax revenues.

The EERC has leveraged competitive funding through the CSEA to advance many important initiatives for North Dakota’s energy industry. CSEA funds have supported the development of a front-end engineering and design study for postcombustion carbon capture at the Coal Creek Station, North Dakota’s single largest electric generation plant, as well as work to expand the Dickinson renewable fuels refinery through sustainable aviation fuel. The CSEA has supported proposals from other technology developers to expand and improve North Dakota’s energy industries such as green pig iron, long-duration energy storage for lithium-ion batteries, a largescale gas-to-liquids plant, commercial deployment of carbon capture and sequestration from a North Dakota ethanol facility, and many value-added energy projects. The funding allocated by Senate Bill 2188 will allow the CSEA to continue advancing new technologies that will enhance the production of clean sustainable energy and maximize North Dakota’s energy resources and the benefits they provide to all North Dakotans.

In short, the CSEA has been instrumental to the success of our energy industries, and will continue to play a critical role going forward. Thank you again for the opportunity to offer comments, and we appreciate the sponsors of this legislation for their continued support of the CSEA.