

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Andrea Pfennig, and I am the Vice President of Government Affairs for the Greater North Dakota Chamber. GNDC is North Dakota's largest statewide business advocacy organization, with membership represented by small and large businesses, local chambers, and trade and industry associations across the state. We stand in **opposition** of Senate Bill 2322.

We support a business-friendly regulatory environment that is consistent, efficient, cost-effective and promotes investment in infrastructure.

This bill would remove common carrier status for carbon dioxide and the ability to utilize eminent domain. Section 5 of this bill would repeal NDCC 38-22-10 resulting in elimination of the entire section of code outlining carbon dioxide underground storage. Our state has invested incredible amounts of resources over the years to establish a regulatory, tax, and legal policy framework that positions us to be a leader when it comes to carbon capture and sequestration.

Carbon dioxide pipelines are essential to the continued growth of a variety of key industries in North Dakota. Infrastructure projects take a very long time and significant amounts of money. We are competing for investments. If we were to change the rules at this stage, it would have a chilling effect on the attraction of capital. A stable and supportive policy framework is vital in order to have a strong business climate that encourages investment from the private sector.

Now is not the time to go backwards. We have a healthy economy and a multitude of earning opportunities for our citizens. Smart approaches to infrastructure are vital to ensure that North Dakota has the infrastructure necessary to support and grow a thriving economy. We hope you will **OPPOSE** SB 2322.

