



**Power
Companies**
OF NORTH DAKOTA

Good morning, 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 2340.

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 2340, the legislative management study on the fire service regional response model.

The proposed study is essential to strengthening the state’s emergency readiness and response to wildfires. Coordinated fire service operations and regional response teams will help mitigate the impact of wildfires, ensuring uninterrupted power supply, protection of essential infrastructure, and public safety.

PCND is committed to participating in this important study and offering our members’ expertise to help develop effective and actionable recommendations.

Accordingly, PCND strongly urges a “Do Pass” recommendation on SB 2340.

Thank you, Chairman Patten and committee members.