



# **GEOTHERMAL RISING POLICY**

**ENERGIZING OUR RENEWABLE FUTURE.**

ND Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee Hearing  
February 6, 2025

Testimony of Jessica Eagle-Bluestone, Geothermal Rising, on  
[Senate Bill No. 2360](#)  
North Dakota Sixty-Ninth Legislative Assembly

Chairperson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jessica Eagle-Bluestone, I'm a North Dakota resident and member of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation. I am here to support Senate Bill No. 2360, which calls for a study on the feasibility of developing geothermal energy in North Dakota. As a geologist with experience in North Dakota's oil and gas sector, I understand the state's subsurface resources and their potential for energy development. In my current role with Geothermal Rising, the world's oldest geothermal non-profit association, serving as the main professional and educational organization for the geothermal community in the United States, I work to advance geothermal energy as a reliable and scalable resource.

North Dakota has long been an energy leader. This study presents an opportunity to evaluate how geothermal energy can strengthen energy security, create jobs, and drive economic growth while utilizing our state's skilled workforce and expertise.

Geothermal is a reliable, baseload energy source that delivers 24/7 power generation, providing a stable and predictable energy supply. Unlike intermittent sources, geothermal offers a steady output, making it ideal for long-term energy planning. Beyond electricity, thermal energy networks can provide cost-effective heating and cooling for homes, businesses, and industries across North Dakota.

Adding geothermal to North Dakota's energy mix strengthens energy security and ensures long-term reliability and resilience. By leveraging our existing subsurface expertise and skilled workforce, we can advance this proven energy source while maintaining North Dakota's position as a leader in energy development.

Geothermal energy creates high-paying jobs and provides a direct path for oil and gas workers to apply their expertise in a growing sector. By tapping into North Dakota's skilled workforce, we can accelerate development and ensure local workers benefit from this expanding industry.

At the same time, a clear regulatory framework will give private investors confidence to develop projects here, driving new economic opportunities and keeping North Dakota at the forefront of U.S. energy leadership.



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While upfront costs can be higher, geothermal plants last over 30 years with low maintenance and operating costs, making them a smart, long-term investment. Innovations like closed-loop and next-gen geothermal systems are lowering costs and expanding geothermal's reach into moderate-temperature regions.

Additionally, if present, lithium co-production from geothermal brines could significantly accelerate return on investment, further enhancing geothermal's economic potential for North Dakota.

This bill currently contains the phrase "shall consider studying", which does not compel action. To ensure meaningful progress, I recommend changing it to "shall conduct a study" so that North Dakota fully evaluates its geothermal potential.

North Dakota has led the way in energy development. Geothermal is the next frontier. Supporting this study means investing in energy security, job creation, and long-term economic growth.

I urge you to support Senate Bill No. 2360 with stronger language to ensure this study moves forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome any questions.

Jessica Eagle-Bluestone  
Geothermal Rising Policy Team