**2023 HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**HB 1124**

# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Energy and Natural Resources Committee**
Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1124
1/19/2023

| Relating to the use of natural gas in new construction |
|---|

Chairman Porter opened the hearing at 10:35 AM.

**Members present**: Chairman Porter, Vice Chairman D. Anderson, Representatives Bosch, Conmy, Dockter, Hagert, Heinert, Ista, Kasper, Marschall, Novak, Olson, Roers Jones, and Ruby.

**Discussion Topics:**

- Introduced bill
- Natural gas
- Gas stove debate
- Free market principles
- Amendment recommendation

**Representative Matt Heilman, Bill Sponsor**- #14507

**Carlee McLeod, President, Utility Shareholders of ND**- #14416

**Brady Pelton, Vice President & General Counsel, ND Petroleum Counci**l- spoke in favor of HB 1124

**Todd Kranda, Lobbyist, Missouri River Energy Services**- spoke in favor of HB 1124

**Andrea Pfennig, Greater North Dakota Chamber**- #14631

**Kayla Pulvermacher, CEO, ND Association of Builders**- spoke in favor of HB 1124

Chairman Porter closed the hearing at 10:48 AM.

*Kathleen Davis, Committee Clerk by Bev Monroe*

# 2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Energy and Natural Resources Committee**
Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1124
1/27/2023

| Relating to the use of natural gas in new construction |
|---|

Chairman Porter opened the hearing at 10:20 AM.

**Members present**: Chairman Porter, Vice Chairman D. Anderson, Representatives Bosch, Conmy, Dockter, Hagert, Heinert, Ista, Kasper, Marschall, Novak, Olson, Roers Jones, and Ruby.

**Discussion Topics:**

- Committee Action

**Representative Ruby** moves a Do Not Pass on HB 1124.

**Representative Heinert** seconded.

**Roll Call Vote:**

| Representatives | Vote |
|---|---|
| Representative Todd Porter | Y |
| Representative Dick Anderson | Y |
| Representative Glenn Bosch | Y |
| Representative Liz Conmy | Y |
| Representative Jason Dockter | Y |
| Representative Jared Hagert | Y |
| Representative Pat D. Heinert | Y |
| Representative Zachary Ista | Y |
| Representative Jim Kasper | AB |
| Representative Andrew Marschall | Y |
| Representative Anna S. Novak | Y |
| Representative Jeremy Olson | Y |
| Representative Shannon Roers Jones | AB |
| Representative Matthew Ruby | Y |

Motion carried 12-0-2

**Representative Bosch** carrier.

**Chairman Porter** closed the hearing at 10:22 AM.

*Kathleen Davis, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1124: Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Rep. Porter, Chairman)** recommends **DO NOT PASS** (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1124 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

**TESTIMONY**

**HB 1124**

USND
Utility Shareholders of North Dakota

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**House Bill 1124** Testimony in **Support**

House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Representative Porter, Chair

January 19, 2023

Chairman Porter, members of the committee, I am Carlee McLeod, president of the Utility Shareholders of North Dakota, here on behalf of USND utility members, including ALLETE, Montana-Dakota Utilities, Otter Tail Power, and Xcel Energy. We ask you to support HB 1124.

There is a growing movement across the country by which political subdivisions use ordinances or other policies to prohibit the use of natural gas. The bans vary by area and generally target the use of natural gas in residences or businesses. Some target certain classifications of buildings, some others target new construction, while others restrict new natural gas extensions in communities. One common tactic is to use modifications to local building and energy codes that have the effect of banning natural gas.

This bill and its companion bill HB 1234 protect the right of individuals and businesses to choose which energy source works best for them. Twenty states have approved such legislation, with more states working through the legislative process currently. There are various benefits to natural gas as a fuel source. For example, natural gas is a more economic fuel choice over all-electric service.

Natural gas plays a central role in economic development, and there is a strong desire of unserved and underserved communities to gain natural gas service. Passing this legislation would provide certainty to individuals, businesses, and industries that rely on continued use of natural gas, those who are working to locate to places where natural gas service is available, and those communities seeking to gain service. Without that certainty, new businesses may choose to locate in states where natural gas use is protected.

We ask for your support of House Bill 1124 for the certainty and protection it provides to citizens who choose natural gas.

Thank you.

January 19, 2023
Testimony to: Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Position: In Favor
Bill: HB 1124

Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I am Representative Matt Heilman bringing forward HB 1124.

Natural gas is vital to our state and important for our day to day operations. HB 1124 protects the choice of the consumer and protects a reliable fuel source. I don't need to stress about how important natural gas is in our state so I will be straight to the point.

I'm sure a lot of you have heard in the news about the debate of gas stoves. This issue really started in 2019 when Berkeley, California's city council banned natural gas in new construction. Many places followed taking similar action such as San Francisco, Los Angeles, and 50 municipalities in California. New York City has also passed a similar ordinance.

It is important these harmful policies never enter our state. 20 other state's have taken action as well preventing cities and municipalities from banning natural gas.

We gain nothing from playing reactionary letting this become a problem and attending to it later on rather than preventing it all together. I kindly ask for a do pass recommendation from the committee and I will stand for any questions.

**GREATER NORTH DAKOTA CHAMBER**
**HB 1124**
**House Energy and Natural Resources Committee**
**Chairman Todd Porter**
**January 18, 2023**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Andrea Pfennig with 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 **support** of House Bill 1124.

Our members support pro-business policies that improve the legal and regulatory environment, maintain consistency, promote growth, and lower business costs. We feel that HB 1124 helps accomplish that by supporting the free market system, which includes the freedom to participate. The decision to produce or consume a particular product is voluntary.

Additionally, HB 1124 helps support a consistent regulatory environment by providing a comprehensive approach across the state.

In conclusion, we urge a Do Pass recommendation on HB 1124, and I will stand for any questions.