2025 HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HCR 3015

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HCR 3015
2/13/2025

A concurrent resolution urging the Southwest Power Pool and Midcontinent Independent System Operator to promptly and decisively act to maintain the reliability of the bulk power system by addressing market failures that have allowed capacity retirements to outpace replacement.

9:10 a.m. Chairman Porter opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Porter, Vice Chairman Anderson, Vice Chairwoman Novak, Representatives: Dockter, Hagert, Headland, Heinert, Johnson, Marschall, Olson, M. Ruby, Conmy, Foss

Discussion Topics:

- Coal-powered plants
- Energy grid stability

9:11 a.m. Vice Chairman Novak introduced the bill and submitted testimony, #37581.

9:13 a.m. Jonathan Fortner, Vice President of Government Relations, Lignite Energy Council, testified in favor and submitted testimony, #37420.

9:15 a.m. Claire Vigesaa, Executive Director, ND Transmission Authority, testified in favor.

9:17 a.m. Zach Smith, Communication and Governmental Relations Director, ND Rural Electric Cooperative, testified in favor.

Additional written testimony:

Dennis Pathroff, Power Companies of ND, submitted testimony in favor, #37502.

9:18 a.m. Chairman Porter closed the hearing.

Joseph Reed, Committee Clerk for Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk

Lignite Energy Council
LEADING THROUGH ADVOCACY AND INNOVATION

February 13, 2025

Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Lignite Energy Council in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 3015. The reliability of our electric grid is at a crossroads, and this resolution highlights the urgent need to preserve baseload generation resources like coal. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation have warned that the rapid retirement of dispatchable generation, combined with delays in replacing capacity and an over-reliance on intermittent energy sources, is putting the grid at serious risk. North Dakota cannot afford to experience the same grid failures and rolling blackouts seen in other states that have abandoned reliable power sources.

Coal-fired power plants provide essential grid-stabilizing attributes—availability, fuel security, ramping capability, and voltage stability—yet they are being forced into early retirement due to market distortions and federal regulations. The Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), which serves much of North Dakota, is already facing projected capacity shortfalls within the next five years, while the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) faces similar reliability concerns. If this trend continues, we risk not only higher electricity costs but also a grid that cannot support businesses, hospitals, and homes when power is needed most.

North Dakota has long been a leader in responsible energy development, ensuring a balanced mix of coal, natural gas, and renewables. However, maintaining this balance requires fair market treatment for baseload power sources. MISO alone is expected to see over 30 gigawatts of dispatchable generation retirements by 2030—losses that cannot be easily replaced. House Concurrent Resolution 3015 calls on MISO and SPP to act now, valuing reliability in their markets and preventing premature capacity retirements from endangering grid stability. North Dakota must send a clear message that we will protect our energy security. The Lignite Energy Council urges the committee to support this resolution and uphold the reliable, affordable electricity that powers our state.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jonathan Fortner
VP of Government Relations
Lignite Energy Council

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Power Companies OF NORTH DAKOTA

Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

The Power Companies of North Dakota ("PCND") urges a "Do Pass" recommendation on HCR 3015.

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.

Reliability is at the heart of everything our members do. Yet, as baseload resources retire faster than they are replaced, maintaining a stable power supply becomes increasingly challenging. HCR 3015 encourages the Southwest Power Pool and Midcontinent Independent System Operator to take proactive steps to strengthen grid reliability by addressing market shortcomings that have contributed to this imbalance.

By ensuring all generation resources are valued based on their contributions to reliability, and that dispatchable baseload resources receive appropriate compensation, we can help maintain a resilient and affordable power system for North Dakota. A well-balanced market must support generation that is available at all hours to meet demand, ensuring long-term grid stability for our customers.

Reliability is what we do every day, and this resolution is about that same commitment—making sure the power is there when North Dakotans need it. Therefore, PCND supports HCR 3015.

Thank you, Chairman Porter and committee members.

Legislative Assembly

North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360

Representative Anna Novak
District 33
1139 Elbowoods Drive
Hazen, ND 58545-4923
anovak@ndlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:
Education
Energy and Natural Resources (Vice Chair)

February 13, 2025

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.

For the record, my name is Anna Novak, representative from District 33, which encompasses all of coal country.

House Concurrent Resolution 3015 is about one simple but urgent truth: our electric grid is at risk. Across the country, we are seeing a dangerous trend—reliable, baseload power sources like coal are being forced out, while intermittent energy sources struggle to fill the gap. The result is a grid that is increasingly fragile, unable to guarantee power when people need it most.

Ensuring the reliability of electricity and protecting the baseload powerplants in ND are some of the main reasons I ran for office a little over two years ago. North Dakota is a state that has extreme heat and extreme cold conditions. Blackout conditions could be deadly.

Coal plants are the backbone of grid stability. They provide 24/7 power, keeping homes warm in the winter and businesses running year-round. Yet federal regulations and market distortions are pushing them toward premature retirement, threatening the energy security of millions. The warnings from experts are clear—without action, we will face power shortages, price spikes, and grid failures. This resolution sends a message: North Dakota values reliability, and we will fight to keep the lights on. I hope you'll support grid reliability and support this resolution.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I'll stand for any questions. Thank you.

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HCR 3015
2/13/2025

A concurrent resolution urging the Southwest Power Pool and Midcontinent Independent System Operator to promptly and decisively act to maintain the reliability of the bulk power system by addressing market failures that have allowed capacity retirements to outpace replacement.

9:52 a.m. Chairman Porter called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chairman Porter, Vice Chairman D. Anderson, Vice Chairwoman Novak, Representatives: Dockter, Hagert, Headland, Heinert, Johnson, Marschall, J. Olson, M. Ruby, Conmy, Foss

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

9:52 a.m. Vice Chairwoman Novak moved a Do Pass and to place HCR 3015 on the Consent Calendar.

9:52 a.m. Representative D. Anderson seconded the motion.

9:53 a.m. Voice vote - Motion passed

9:53 Chairman Porter closed the meeting.

Joseph Reed, Committee Clerk for Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HCR 3015 (25.3084.01000)

Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Rep. Porter, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** and **BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3015 was placed on the Tenth order on the calendar.

2025 SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HCR 3015

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

HCR 3015
3/13/2025

A concurrent resolution urging the Southwest Power Pool and Midcontinent Independent System Operator to promptly and decisively act to maintain the reliability of the bulk power system by addressing market failures that have allowed capacity retirements to outpace replacement.

9:39 a.m. Chairman Patten opened the hearing.

Members present:
Chairman Patten, Vice Chairman Kessel, Senators: Beard, Boehm, Enget, Gerhardt, and Van Oosting.

Discussion Topics:

- Electric grid reliability
- Baseload generation resources
- Federal regulatory impact

9:40 a.m. Jonathan Fortner, VP, Government Relations of Lignite Energy Council, testified in favor and submitted testimony #41235.

9:45 a.m. Representative Novak testified in favor and submitted testimony #41289.

9:46 a.m. Zack Smith, Relations Director, NDARECs, testified in favor.

9:48 a.m. Chairman Patten closed the hearing.

9:48 a.m. Senator Boehm moved a Do Pass.

9:49 a.m. Senator Beard seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Dale Patten	Y
Senator Greg Kessel	Y
Senator Todd Beard	Y
Senator Keith Boehm	Y
Senator Mark Enget	Y
Senator Justin Gerhardt	Y
Senator Desiree Van Oosting	Y

Motion Passed 7-0-0.

9:49 a.m. Senator Boehm will carry the bill.

Additional written testimony:

Dennis Pathroff, Lobbyist, Power Companies of North Dakota, submitted testimony in favor #41066.

9:49 a.m. Chairman Patten closed the hearing.

Kendra McCann, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HCR 3015 (25.3084.01000)

Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Sen. Patten, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3015 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This resolution does not affect workforce development.

Power Companies OF NORTH DAKOTA

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 HCR 3015.

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.

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Thank you, Chairman Patten and committee members.

Lignite Energy Council
LEADING THROUGH ADVOCACY AND INNOVATION

March 13, 2025

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Thank you for your consideration,

Jonathan Fortner
VP of Government Relations
Lignite Energy Council

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Legislative Assembly

North Dakota House of Representatives

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COMMITTEES:
Education
Energy and Natural Resources (Vice Chair)

March 13, 2025

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