

Testimony - North Dakota Alliance for Renewable Energy**Energy Development & Transmission Committee – 9/16/10**

Mr. Chairman & Committee Members: My name is Kim Christianson. I am the Director of the Great Plains Energy Corridor office at Bismarck State College. Prior to my current position, I was the Manager of the Office of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency at the Dept. of Commerce for a number of years. I am here today representing the North Dakota Alliance for Renewable Energy (NDARE) where I'm currently serving as Vice-Chair on the organization's Board. The NDARE organization has broad representation from utility companies to environmental organizations to farm and commodity groups to educational institutions. We are proponents of renewable energy development in North Dakota, especially in the areas of wind energy, biofuels (ethanol and biodiesel), biomass, and geothermal. We are also strong proponents of energy efficiency, which we view as the first best step towards energy independence and energy security. We also believe that energy efficiency in homes and businesses results in substantial cost savings over time, improved comfort, and enhanced working and living conditions. While North Dakota has made some strides to promote and incentivize energy efficiency efforts, we believe that much more remains to be done.

NDARE is generally supportive of the LEED program and the requirement that new and substantially remodeled public buildings achieve LEED silver standards. However, we also recognize that there may be some concern among Committee members that a few of the sustainable development requirements may be overly cumbersome and costly for public entities to achieve. If that is the case, our suggestion would be to modify the legislation to require new and substantially remodeled public buildings to meet the Dept. of Energy/EPA ENERGY STAR certification, which is primarily concerned with energy use. Two nearby buildings that achieved the ENERGY STAR certification are the Century Center and Job Service ND buildings just to the north of Great River Energy's building. Because

these buildings are ENERGY STAR rated, they were certified to be more energy efficient than 75 percent or more of other buildings of a similar type. This means that they will realize long-term energy cost savings for ND taxpayers.

NDARE is in the process of finalizing our 2010 policy document and one of our policies in the area of energy efficiency is to require ENERGY STAR certification of new and substantially remodeled public buildings.

We applaud your consideration of this piece of legislation and will be supportive if it requires certification to either LEED silver standards or to ENERGY STAR standards.

Thank you for your time and I would be happy to respond to questions.