

SB 2018
March 11, 2021
House Education and Environment Committee

Chairman Monson and Members of the E&E Committee,

As leaders in the North Dakota Energy Sector, we request that you support Senate Bill 2018 given Commerce's importance in growing the economy, marketing the sector's characteristics, preparing communities for the state's clean energy transformation and creating a workforce that meets competitive standards for recruiting the nation's best talent.

Specifically, the requested Commerce budget has discretion to invest money into Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) efforts thereby increasing the probability of value-added production capabilities and invest in critical projects such as informing industry on evolving Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG) standards. This occurs via the Commerce Momentum (Discretionary) Fund and the FDI request of \$850,000.

As industry and the State of ND invest big into clean energy, Commerce is essential in moving the needle, accelerating an innovative and entrepreneurial environment, and synchronizing activities among state agencies to support the energy sector most effectively.

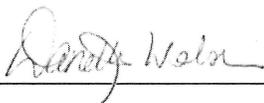
Please accept this letter as a collective endorsement of these critical Commerce initiatives as well as SB 2018.



Jason Bohrer, President & CEO
Lignite Energy Council



Ron Ness, President
North Dakota Petroleum Council



Danette Welsch, Government Relations
ONEOK