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Chairman Headland and House Finance and Taxation Committee Members,

On behalf of Great River Energy, I am submitting testimony in support of House Bill 1412 to provide lignite plants necessary temporary tax relief from coal conversion taxes.

The lignite industry needs immediate economic relief to protect and preserve the North Dakota lignite industry which produces significant economic impact, thousands of jobs and millions in annual state and local tax revenues.

This proposal provides relief from the general fund deposits and does not impact county tax revenue or the lignite research fund.

Great River Energy supports HB1412 and we respectfully ask that the committee provide a "Do-Pass" recommendation on this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration,

Al Christianson

Director, Business Development & Governmental Affairs

Great River Energy

Lobbyist #78