

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2137
HOUSE FINANCE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE
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Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Justin Dever and I am testifying today in support of Senate Bill 2137 on behalf of MDU Resources Group and its subsidiary Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. Montana-Dakota serves 158 communities in North Dakota with electricity and natural gas.

Value-added energy projects like data centers can help diversify the state's economy, provide jobs for North Dakotans, and add to the tax base.

Attracting data centers provide an opportunity to add value to our state's electric generation. Large data centers consume significant amounts of power. This is power that could be generated and used in the state, bypassing transmission constraints that limit the amount of power that can be exported out of state.

North Dakota has natural advantages in attracting data centers, such as the state's cool climate which assist in cooling. North Dakota also has competitive electricity rates, an important factor considering the amount of power they consume. However, incentives like the one proposed in SB 2137 are needed for North Dakota to be competitive with other states, such as Minnesota, Iowa, and Wyoming which are among the many states that have incentive programs targeting data centers.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to visit with you today.