

March 16, 2021
Testimony of Dakota Resource Council
SB 2206
Scott Skokos Lobbyist # 256

Chairman Headland & members of the committee, my name is Scott Skokos and I am testifying on behalf of Dakota Resource Council and our members. Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony in opposition to SB 2206.

Dakota Resource Council (DRC) is a non-partisan grassroots group of landowners, ranchers, farmers, and other citizens. We oppose SB 2206 simply because it is not right to charge ratepayers for high-risk projects that have been proven around the world to not be economically viable.¹ If other investors or the state decide to take that risk, while we highly recommend otherwise, that is their choice. However, charging ratepayers for those high-risk projects that are not in alignment with the direction our entire nation is going surrounding energy is wrong. Our energy economy is rapidly changing and ratepayers trust that they aren't funding high-risk investments.

Take for example the Petra Nova carbon sequestration project in Texas, which is likely to not be coming back online after having been mothballed. Petra Nova never captured the anticipated amounts of carbon and was not economically viable.² Proponents often point to Petra Nova often cited as the example of a project best carbon sequestration project, despite the fact that it failed on all accounts. A failed project is not good evidence to support this bill. Again, if the state and private investors choose to invest in high-risk carbon capture, fine. Ratepayers shouldn't foot the investment.

I urge the committee to oppose SB 2206 and recommend a DO NOT PASS on SB 2206.

1 - http://www.worc.org/media/Too_Good_to_Be_True_Report.pdf

2-
https://ieefa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Petra-Nova-Mothballing-Post-Mortem_August-2020.pdf

3 -
https://ieefa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Project-Tundra_A-Step-in-the-Wrong-Direction_September-2020.pdf