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**Senate Bill 2345
(Section 1, Subsection 1)**

Testimony of Ron Ness

Senate Appropriations Committee

November 9, 2021

Chairman Holmberg and members of the Appropriations Committee, my name is Ron Ness, president of the North Dakota Petroleum Council. The North Dakota Petroleum Council represents nearly 600 companies in all aspects of the oil and gas industry, including oil and gas production, refining, pipeline, transportation, mineral leasing, consulting, legal work, and oilfield service activities in North Dakota. I appear before you today in support of Senate Bill 2345 and, specifically, Section 1, Subsection 1 of the bill.

North Dakota has a unique opportunity to partner with Bakken producers and midstream companies interested in finding new markets and transportation options for Bakken natural gas. A major transmission line linking the west to the east will provide countless dividends back to the state, including moving high value, North Dakota-produced natural gas at competitive rates to underserved market areas of the state. By expanding processed Bakken natural gas takeaway capacity with the addition of such a major trunk line, North Dakota's oil industry can also increase oil production while advancing the state's goal of producing clean, sustainable, reliable, and affordable energy to the nation and the world.

Instead of being reliant on natural gas sourced from Canada, North Dakota is in the unique position of being able to invest in a major piece of infrastructure that serves and benefits the entire state. Central and eastern North Dakota are largely starved for the level of natural gas supply required for those regions to grow their economic portfolios. Supporting a FERC-regulated common carrier natural gas trunk line to areas of central and eastern North Dakota will allow third parties to compete to deliver Bakken natural gas to local communities and anchor economic development projects. This is a "win-win-win" project for the state.

We therefore urge a **Do Pass** on Section 1, Subsection 1 of Senate Bill 2345. I would be happy to answer any questions.