

**Greater North Dakota Chamber
HB 1412
Senate Finance and Taxation
March 17, 2021**

Madam Chair and Members of the Senate Finance and Taxation Committee,

For the record, I am Arik Spencer, President and CEO of the Greater North Dakota Chamber. GNDC is North Dakota's largest statewide business advocacy organization. **We urge support** for the immediate economic tax relief through short term tax reform as outlined in House Bill 1412.

The lignite industry, providing \$125M in annual state and local tax revenues and employing or impacting thousands of families in North Dakota, has felt pressures from non-market forces including but not limited to federal policies and regulations. These burdens amplified the cost to operate, limited access to capital and increased other costs including insurance premiums. Relief is needed for these essential businesses and workers for the betterment of our state.

This temporary tax relief would not impact local coal counties negatively as the relief is from general fund deposits. The 5-year plan would provide an opportunity for coal conversion facilities to work toward economic stability. North Dakota has an 800-year supply of economical lignite remaining under the soil but if you don't nurture research or develop carbon capture for other uses, this industry will not serve our state past the immediate future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on HB 1412 as we request your consideration on a **do-pass recommendation**.

ARIK SPENCER

PRESIDENT AND CEO

GREATER NORTH DAKOTA CHAMBER