

Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill No. 2313 with Amendments

Wind Industry of North Dakota (WIND) supports SB 2313 with the amendments advanced by Senator Wardner. WIND is a coalition of wind industry members who believe North Dakota should harness its abundance of wind for the continued benefit of its communities and residents. WIND's members include American Clean Power Association (formerly the American Wind Energy Association), Apex Clean Energy, Capital Power, EDF Renewables, Enel North America, Invenergy, NextEra Energy Resources, and Orsted. WIND shares the goal of a reliable and affordable power grid, along with an all-of-the-above energy strategy.

Since its inception, WIND has had an active and collaborative working relationship with the ND Transmission Authority (NTA), which provides a unique and strategic advantage that other states do not enjoy. The NTA has been a responsive partner to WIND and many others in strengthening and growing the state's energy sector. Within the statute creating the NTA, NDCC ch. 17-05, the legislature has declared the critical role of our state's natural resources play, the challenges of transmission constraints, and how those constraints need to be overcome to strengthen and grow our economy.

The bill, with the proposed amendments, seeks to grow the NTA's role by codifying its responsibility to participate in transmission studies and to report important data to the legislature and the Industrial Commission. This enhanced role is a good idea because it elevates understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing electricity generation and transmission in ND.

WIND respectfully urges a DO PASS recommendation as amended, and it supports the amendments offered by Senator Wardner.



Wind Industry of North Dakota

Please feel free to contact any of us for continued discussion.

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