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**Testimony in Favor of SB 2313, as amended by Senator Wardner
February 18, 2021**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, for the record my name is Mark Bring. I'm a lawyer licensed in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota, and I serve as Director of Legislative Affairs for Otter Tail Power Company.

Our company is the largest subsidiary of Otter Tail Corporation, which has headquarters in Fargo, North Dakota and Fergus Falls, Minnesota and is traded on the NASDAQ stock exchange with stock symbol OTTR. Otter Tail Corporation also owns several manufacturing companies, including Northern Pipe Products in Fargo and BTD Manufacturing in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

Otter Tail Power Company, which is headquartered in Fergus Falls, provides electricity to more than 130,000 customers in a service area encompassing 70,000 square miles of western Minnesota, eastern North Dakota, and northeastern South Dakota. The largest community we serve in North Dakota is Jamestown.

Our company was incorporated in 1907. Its first customer was the City of Wahpeton. We still serve Wahpeton, but many of the communities we serve are much smaller - - such as my hometown Galesburg in Traill County.

While we had concerns with SB 2313, as introduced, Senator Majority Leader Rich Wardner and House Majority Leader Chet Pollert graciously agreed to meet with us and other utilities to address concerns about the bill. SB 2313, as amended by Senator Wardner, addresses our concerns and those of other stakeholders. We are thankful for the Leaders' willingness to work collaboratively on the legislation. We support SB 2313, as amended.

Because there has been a great deal of media regarding recent issues with the electrical grid, I would like to add a brief status update about our company's system.

Our company is a member of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, or MISO. There will be MISO personnel available to answer technical questions for your committee this afternoon. While there was a maximum generation emergency in this region of MISO on Tuesday morning, the more serious issues have either been in the Southwest Power Pool, also referred to as SPP, or in the South Region of MISO (which includes most of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Southeast Texas). Our system was impacted only in an isolated incidence, when a power system operator in the SPP region briefly disconnected several small communities that we serve for a duration of one to thirty-seven minutes, under the misapprehension that these communities were in the SPP region rather than the MISO region.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on SB 2313. **We urge adoption of Senator Wardner's amendment and, thereafter, a DO PASS recommendation on SB 2313, as amended.**