

February 18, 2021

To: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

RE: Support of Senate Bill 2313 as amended

From: Zac Smith, communications and government relations director, NDAREC

Chairman Kreun and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources committee, my name is Zac Smith, and I am testifying on behalf of the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives in support of Senate Bill 2313 as amended by Senate Majority Leader Wardner. The North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC) represents sixteen electric distribution cooperatives and five generation and transmission cooperatives that generate, transmit, and distribute electricity across the state of North Dakota.

The amendments will make clear in code the Transmission Authority's responsibility to gather data and report to the Legislature and Industrial Commission on the resilience and adequacy of the electric grid. This is a worthy effort and thoughtful approach to providing the state another opportunity to hear the challenges and opportunities for electrical generation in North Dakota.

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.