



Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee – SB 2165

Senator Dale Patten, Chair

January 19, 2023

Chairman Patten, Members of the Committee:

My name is Brian Ritter and I'm the President & CEO of the Bismarck Mandan Chamber EDC. Please accept the following testimony on behalf of our organization's more than 1,200 business members in support of SB 2165.

Bismarck-Mandan's economy is built upon a diverse number of industries, including: government, healthcare, education and energy. That fact is acknowledged and formalized in our organization's 2023 Legislative Agenda where we state our support for, *"Increased levels of funding for the grants and loans made available under the State's Clean Sustainable Energy Authority."*

Section 2 of SB 2165 does just that by making \$300 million available for loan guarantees authorized by the Clean Sustainable Energy Authority. Additionally, that same section makes another \$50 million available for grants as determined by the Clean Sustainable Energy Authority, as well. Whether as a grant or as a loan, these dollars will be a tremendous help to our State's energy producers as they look to innovate their operations even further.

As such, I would respectfully ask that the Committee give a DO PASS recommendation to SB 2165.