

Testimony of Michael Graalum, Clean Energy Organizer, Dakota Resource Council, on
Senate Bill 2360

Chairperson and Members of the House Agriculture Committee,

I am Michael Graalum, Clean Energy Organizer for the Dakota Resource Council. I write to you today in support of Senate Bill No. 2360, calling for detailed study of the viability of geothermal power in our state. North Dakota has been a leader in energy innovation for generations, including our early and emphatic adoption of wind-generation, coal gasification, fracking, biofuels, and other technologies. As a result of these previous efforts, our state has been left endowed with many deep wells, trained drillers and support staff, and supporting infrastructure.

This shift of the economics of this technology in our favor makes this an opportunity of high priority, as this source has the potential to provide both baseload power and can be used as a backup for intermittent technologies like wind or solar. This is a carbon neutral technology, which will be essential as this is increasingly a requirement in the large energy markets to which North Dakota exports. As this energy source is highly scalable, reliable and ecologically sound, North Dakota will be able to present a stronger case to potential industrial partners, including data centers, industrial greenhouses, heavy manufacturing, and other uses. It will also be able to provide district heat, as is used in many institutional and neighborhood settings around the state and the world.

Giving this technology the full support of the state will help us reach our goal of an “all of the above” energy policy, provide economic resiliency to our citizens in western North Dakota and turn our burdensome legacy oil infrastructure into an asset. Please support this bill and this potential revolutionary technology.

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