

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Andrea Pfennig, and I am the Vice President of Government Affairs for the Greater North Dakota Chamber. GNDC is North Dakota's largest statewide business advocacy organization, with membership represented by small and large businesses, local chambers, and trade and industry associations across the state. We stand in **opposition** of House Bill 1292.

We support a business-friendly regulatory environment that is consistent, efficient, cost-effective and promotes investment in infrastructure.

This bill would remove common carrier status for carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide pipelines are essential to the continued growth of a variety of key industries in North Dakota. Infrastructure projects take a very long time and significant amounts of money. We are competing for investments. If we were to change the rules at this stage, it would have a chilling effect on the attraction of capital. A stable and supportive policy framework is vital in order to have a strong business climate that encourages investment from the private sector.

Our state has worked long and hard to be a leader when it comes to innovation, especially in the energy sector, and we are reaping the benefits. We have a healthy economy and a multitude of earning opportunities for our citizens. Now is not the time to go backwards. We need carbon dioxide to retain its common carrier status in order to keep moving forward. We hope you will **OPPOSE** HB 1292.

