



January 23, 2025

House Energy & Natural Resources Committee

Re: Support HB 1400

Chairman Porter and members of the committee,

Wind Industry of ND (WIND) is a coalition that advocates for the continued support of wind as one of North Dakota's many valuable natural resources.

WIND is writing to express our support for House Bill 1400 and to thank Representatives Brandenburg, Grueneich, Headland, Kempenich, Pyle, Schreiber-Beck and Senators Conley, Erbele, Kessel, Wanzek, and Weber—along with Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring—for sponsoring this bill.

Last session, the legislature reformed how the industry seeks to responsibly and collaboratively offset environmental and wildlife impacts of wind development. That reform elevated the agriculture commissioner to become an important resource that helps balance the interests of energy development, associated environmental impacts, and impacts to agriculture. We were pleased to be a part of and supportive of these reforms.

We appreciate the extensive efforts undertaken to develop and implement the voluntary mitigation program under the Agriculture Commissioner's leadership this interim. The numerous meetings and collaborative discussions have laid the groundwork for a program that balances environmental protections without compromising the needs of farmers and ranchers. House Bill 1400 provides the additional authority, in the form of voluntary easements, needed to ensure the program can achieve its full potential, benefiting farmers, landowners, and energy development.

Thank you again for your hard work and commitment to advancing this important program. For these reasons, we urge a **DO PASS** recommendation from the committee.

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