

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Amanda Remyse, and I am the Vice President of Strategic Engagement for the Greater North Dakota Chamber (GNDC). GNDC is North Dakota's largest statewide business advocacy organization, representing small and large businesses, local chambers, and trade and industry associations across the state.

We stand in support of House Bill 1258.

Our members strongly support a regulatory environment that is:

- Consistent, ensuring businesses can make long-term investment decisions with confidence.
- Efficient, avoiding unnecessary delays that increase costs.
- Cost-effective, promoting economic growth through infrastructure development.

HB 1258 ensures a streamlined approach to infrastructure permitting by placing the authority for siting transmission lines with the Public Service Commission (PSC). This approach aligns with the current process, creating a uniform and predictable system for critical infrastructure projects.

The PSC has the expertise and procedures necessary to oversee large infrastructure developments, ensuring they are comprehensive, efficient, and beneficial to North Dakota's economy.

Transmission infrastructure plays a key role in:

- Delivering affordable, reliable energy to businesses and residents.
- Attracting investment by ensuring companies have the energy capacity they need.
- Supporting job creation and economic development across the state.
- Generating tax revenue for local communities, counties, and the state.

A smart approach to infrastructure regulation ensures North Dakota remains a top location for business growth and investment. We urge your support for HB 1258.

