

In Opposition of HB1258

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

March 21, 2025

Chairman Patten and Committee Members,

I am Larry Syverson from Mayville. I grow soybeans on my farm in Traill County. I am the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for Roseville Township in Traill County and the Executive Director of the North Dakota Township Officers Association. NDTOA represents 6,000 Township Officers serving more than 1,400 dues-paying member townships.

NDTOA recognizes the need for powerlines and that additional lines will be needed to market the energy produced in the state and for grid reliability. However, we note that the PSC decision on the project, which was the impetus for HB1258, was not unanimous. Commissioner Christman, the most experienced commissioner who has worked extensively with powerlines and grid reliability, was in dissent.

The opening line of Commissioner Christman's letter of dissent.

"The Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Otter Tail Power Company's and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.'s 345 kV transmission line from Ellendale to Jamestown should be denied. The applicants have not met their burden to show the necessity for this investment."

We believe this casts sufficient doubt about the project that a PSC ruling on it should not supersede local control.

Therefore, NDTOA requests that HB1258 be amended to require unanimity in PSC decisions that would supersede local control.

Chairman Patten and Committee members, thank you for this opportunity to address the committee today. Please consider our requested amendment to HB1258. That concludes my prepared statement, I will stand for your questions.