



**Power
Companies**
OF NORTH DAKOTA

Good morning, Chairman Patten and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

The Power Companies of North Dakota (“PCND”) urges a “Do Pass” recommendation on HB 1539.

PCND is a coalition of the state’s leading shareholder-owned gas and electric utilities. Our members include MDU Resources Group, Xcel Energy, Otter Tail Power Company, and ALLETE. Together, PCND members serve over 427,000 North Dakota customers, employ over 1,200 North Dakotans, and manage significant power generation and transmission infrastructure across our state.

Today, we express PCND’s support for HB 1539, which defines “backup electric generation” and exempts it from the state’s electric energy conversion facility siting process.

This bill will improve grid stability by allowing large, energy-intensive facilities, such as data centers and other major energy consumers, to deploy backup generation quickly and without unnecessary regulatory barriers. Backup systems provide critical support during outages or peak demand, reducing strain on the grid and ensuring that essential operations can continue uninterrupted. This not only benefits the facilities themselves but also protects utility customers by minimizing the risk of widespread power supply disruptions.

Furthermore, by enabling large energy users to rely on backup electric generation during times of grid instability or power supply disruption, HB 1539 enhances the reliability of power delivery for all customers. This flexibility helps utilities maintain consistent service while avoiding unnecessary stress on the broader electric grid.

Accordingly, we strongly urge a “Do Pass” recommendation for HB 1539.

Thank you, Chairman Patten and committee members, for your consideration.