



North Dakota House of Representatives

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Representative Anna Novak

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COMMITTEES:

Education
Energy and Natural Resources (Vice Chair)

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Concurrent Resolution 3017. For the record, my name is Anna Novak, representative from district 33 which is Coal Country!

As many of you know, I have a deep connection to the coal industry and a real soft spot for coal miners. My dad was a coal miner, my brother was a coal miner and my husband is a coal miner. House Concurrent Resolution 3017 recognizes December 6th as "Miner's Day" in honor of the hardworking men and women in North Dakota's coal industry, many of which live in my district. This resolution is a testament to the vital role coal miners play in ensuring affordable, reliable energy for millions of people while supporting our state's economy, energy security, and technological advancements in energy production.

North Dakota's lignite industry contributes over \$5.5 billion in economic activity annually, supports 12,000 high-paying jobs, and generates \$100 million in tax revenue, funding our schools, infrastructure, and essential services. Beyond electricity generation, advancements in carbon capture, rare earth mineral extraction, and value-added uses of lignite demonstrate the industry's ongoing innovation and potential for economic diversification. At a time when federal regulations threaten to undermine domestic energy production, this resolution serves as a call to support policies that ensure a level playing field for coal and base-load electricity resources. By officially recognizing Miner's Day, we not only honor those who power our homes and businesses but also reinforce our commitment to preserving a reliable energy future for North Dakota and beyond.

With that, I'll stand for any questions you might have for me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.