



**Testimony of Connie Ova, President
Economic Development Association of North Dakota**

March 17, 2016

Chairwoman Triplett and members of the interim Economic Impact Committee, I'm Connie Ova, CEO of the Jamestown/Stutsman Development Corporation and president of the Economic Development Association of North Dakota (EDND).

On behalf of EDND, I would like to thank you for allowing us to be a resource to the committee as you study the needs and work to find potential strategies to help provide natural gas service to unserved and underserved communities in North Dakota. I appreciate your willingness to include me on today's agenda.

EDND represents more than 80 state economic development organizations on the front line of economic development efforts throughout North Dakota. The primary purpose of the organization is to support the creation of new wealth and the diversification of North Dakota's economy. Providing natural gas to unserved and underserved communities is one of our legislative priorities, and we have formed a Natural Gas Committee to promote the enhancement of natural gas service.

According to the Department of Commerce, communities with access to natural gas have an additional asset that enhances economic development opportunities than communities without it. Therefore, the availability of natural gas and the expansion of natural gas infrastructure play a key role in the continued growth and vitality of many businesses, communities and the state.

Natural gas is a resource typically required in order to attract any significant manufacturing opportunity. National site selectors have reported they won't consider a community for a manufacturing project if it does not have natural gas service.

EDND has several efforts underway to gather information for you. In fact, while collecting information about other state efforts, we found out the American Gas Association is conducting a study of state efforts to expand natural gas to underserved or unserved communities and a representative from this committee is with us today.

In addition, EDND conducted a membership survey to identify examples of communities which have lost opportunities due to the lack of or limited amount of natural gas. This information has been provided to the committee.

Please note the names and contact information of the EDND Natural Gas Committee, should you have additional questions or would like more information. Each of these committee members represent a community or a number of communities impacted by the need for additional natural gas services or infrastructure.

Thank you for taking the time to examine the natural gas needs of our state and to look for potential solutions.

EDND Natural Gas Committee

Jamestown: Connie Ova - connie@growingjamestown.com, 701-252-6861

Grand Forks: Keith Lund - keithl@grandforks.org, 701-746-2722

Harvey: Nicki Weisman - btc@utma.com, 701-400-6735

Hillsboro: Melissa Beach - director@traillcountyedc.com, 701-636-4746

Hazen: Buster Langowski - hcd@westriv.com, 701-748-6886

Wahpeton: Jane Priebe - janep@wahpeton.com, 701-642-8559

Beulah: John Phillips - jphillips@ssnd.org, 701-873-2110

Department of Commerce: Justin Dever, jdever@nd.gov, 701-328-7258

ND League of Cities: Blake Crosby, blake@ndlc.org, 701-223-3518

Natural Gas Lost Opportunities

Location	Type of Project	Unrealized Jobs	Final location	Reason
Cavalier County	Straw processing plant	30-40		Pipeline at capacity
Cavalier County	Pea protein processing plant	50-100		Pipeline at capacity
Hillsboro	Pre-cast concrete	20+		Lack of natural gas
Hillsboro	Pipe manufacturing	15+	Hawley, MN	Lack of natural gas cited as only reason
Buxton	Plastic pipe manufacturing	10-15	Out of state	Lack of natural gas
Buxton	Food processing	12-15	MN	Lack of natural gas
Hettinger	Home builder			Lack of natural gas
Hettinger	Railroad contractor			Lack of natural gas
Wahpeton	Manufacturing project			Pipeline at capacity
Wahpeton	Agriculture project			Pipeline at capacity
Wahpeton	Soybean crushing facility - 2008	50		Pipeline at capacity
Wahpeton	Soybean crushing facility - 2015	50		Pipeline at capacity