

Introduced by

Senators Patten, J. Roers, Schaible

Representatives Howe, Mock

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 57-51.1 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to a credit for oil produced from a well site using an onsite flare  
3 mitigation system; to provide for application; and to provide an expiration date.

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 57-51.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
6 and enacted as follows:

7 **Temporary exemption - Oil extraction tax credit for gas flaring mitigation.**

8 1. As used in this section:

- 9 a. "Flare mitigation" means the quantity in millions of British thermal units of heat  
10 content of gas used by an onsite flare mitigation system. The term does not  
11 include the heat content of any gas flared before, during, or after intake by a flare  
12 mitigation system.
- 13 b. "Onsite flare mitigation system" means a system at a well site which intakes gas  
14 and natural gas liquids from a well, separating and collecting over fifty percent of  
15 the propane and heavier hydrocarbons, to achieve a reduction of flared thermal  
16 intensity through beneficial consumption by:
- 17 (1) Compressing or liquifying gas for use as fuel or transport to a processing  
18 facility;
- 19 (2) Production of petrochemicals or fertilizer;
- 20 (3) Conversion to liquid fuels;
- 21 (4) Conversion to electricity for onsite use or supply to the electrical grid;
- 22 (5) Conversion to computational power; or
- 23 (6) Other value-added processes as approved by the industrial commission.
- 24 c. "Qualifying well" means a well on which:

- 1           (1) If a well site already is connected to a pipeline and pipeline capacity is  
2           unavailable on the existing pipeline, the producer and the pipeline operator  
3           jointly have filed a sundry with the industrial commission attesting to the lack  
4           of existing pipeline takeaway capacity;
- 5           (2) If the producer's well is not connected to an existing pipeline but the  
6           producer's lands, leases, wells, or gas are dedicated contractually to a  
7           pipeline operator, the producer and the pipeline operator to which the lands,  
8           leases, wells, or gas are dedicated jointly have filed a sundry with the  
9           industrial commission attesting it is either technically or commercially  
10          unfeasible to connect a pipeline to the producer's well; or
- 11          (3) If the producer's well is not already connected to an existing pipeline and  
12          the producer's lands, leases, wells, or gas are not dedicated contractually,  
13          the producer unilaterally has filed a sundry with the industrial commission  
14          attesting to these facts.
- 15          2. A system that otherwise meets the definition of onsite flare mitigation system as  
16          defined in this section is not an "onsite flare mitigation system" if it is:
- 17           a. Installed on a stripper well as defined by subsection 8 of section 57-51.1-01;  
18           b. Installed before July 1, 2021;  
19           c. Installed on a well connected to or is technically and commercially feasible to  
20           connect to a gas pipeline with capacity;  
21           d. A system that supports the normal production operations of a well, consumes gas  
22           as part of the routine oil and gas production process, such as a heater treater,  
23           separator, or electrical dissipation through a load bank, or any system or  
24           application traditionally considered as on-pad use.
- 25          3. A producer is entitled to a credit against the tax liability determined under chapter  
26          57-51.1 equal to seventy-five cents per one million British thermal units of flare  
27          mitigation resulting from the operation of an onsite flare mitigation system on a  
28          qualifying well.
- 29          4. The credit may be claimed for up to twelve months per well and may not exceed six  
30          thousand dollars per well per month.
- 31          5. To qualify for the credit:

- 1           a. The industrial commission shall certify the well of a producer as a qualifying well  
2                   and the producer shall submit a copy of the certification to the tax commissioner.
- 3           b. On or before the fifteenth day of the month succeeding the month of production,  
4                   the owner or operator of the onsite flare mitigation system shall file a monthly  
5                   report with the tax commissioner and the producer certifying the amount of flare  
6                   per qualifying well during the month of production.
- 7           c. The credit for flare mitigation must be claimed by the producer against the oil  
8                   extraction tax due on a per well basis for the production month following the  
9                   month in which the mitigation occurred.
- 10          d. The producer shall file the return required under this chapter for the duration of  
11                   the credit and pay any oil taxes due. After the exemption period ends, the  
12                   purchaser shall pay the oil taxes due.
- 13          6. The tax commissioner may audit the records of the producer and operator of the  
14                   onsite flare mitigation system to administer this section. The credit allowed may not  
15                   exceed the liability of the tax under this section.

16           **SECTION 2. APPLICATION.** The credit in section 1 of this Act only applies to production  
17 from wells located outside the exterior boundaries of the Fort Berthold Reservation unless the  
18 Three Affiliated Tribes, through the tribal chair, notifies the tax commissioner in writing that the  
19 Three Affiliated Tribes desires to include production from wells from within the boundaries of the  
20 exterior boundaries of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation without altering the provisions of the  
21 compact on oil and gas production taxes within the Fort Berthold Reservation. This Act applies  
22 to production from a qualifying well on which a flare mitigation system is installed between  
23 June 30, 2021, and July 1, 2023.

24           **SECTION 3. EXPIRATION DATE.** This Act is effective through June 30, 2023, and after that  
25 date is ineffective.