

HB 1380 – Testimony by Dustin Gawrylow (Lobbyist #266) North Dakota Watchdog Network

This bill sets up a framework for using Legacy Fund interest earnings.

The problem with this bill is the open ended nature that it funds the Clean Sustainable Energy Fund at a \$40 million per biennium level.

That fund, which does not yet exist and is still being debated in HB 1452 is itself open-ended with problems surrounding its governance structure. It is also becoming apparent that the goal of the Clean Sustainable Energy Fund is to use state tax dollars to create a government program that will subsidize speculative technology with the goal of making fossil fuel based energy more marketable to states that have decided they don't want such power sources.

The Legacy Earnings portion of HB 1380 should either be triggered by the passage of HB 1452, or the Legacy Fund earnings provisions from HB 1380 should be placed into HB 1452 so that it is clear that HB 1452's fiscal note is not a one-time expense and that this will be an on-going subsidy and government program.

We oppose both HB 1452 and HB 1380 for these reasons and urge a DO NOT PASS as currently written.