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Establishment of the clean, sustainable energy authority and associated funding supports the use of North Dakota energy resources and the advancement of technologies for clean, reliable, low-emission energy production. The funding would benefit transformational energy technologies that are on the cusp of commercial viability. The Clean, Sustainable Energy Authority and Fund would advance projects and technologies that were likely developed and advanced through the State Energy Research Center, the Oil and Gas Research Council, the Renewable Energy Council, and the Lignite Energy Council. The outcome of this bill is the last piece needed to integrate this important work and build upon the collective knowledge of these distinguished organizations.

Through the State Energy Research Center, the Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC) has been developing the energy technologies of the future. These technologies, if further expanded, could be the types of projects to power North Dakota and our economy in 5 to 10 years. The EERC has worked over the past year on a collaborative, comprehensive energy sustainability model that can demonstrate, using systems dynamics, the complexities and necessary pieces that ensure reliable and environmentally responsible energy sources for our citizens and their quality of life. This model, in combination with other regional studies, can provide the framework for HB 1452's goal to create a comprehensive energy policy for North Dakota's future.

Our research through funding through the research councils has led to advances in all areas of energy in North Dakota. Initiatives such as Project Tundra, CO₂ capture and geologic storage at Red Trail Energy, iPIPE, the Bakken Production Optimization Program, the Plains CO₂ Reduction Partnership Initiative, and research in underground storage of produced natural gas and recycling of water used in oil and gas operations are working toward even more efficient and environmentally responsible ways to use and produce energy. This work brings value to North Dakota by maintaining secure baseload power with a low CO₂ footprint, supporting the current industry and its growth, creating new revenue streams, achieving the state's gas capture requirements, commercializing technologies that could "unlock" enhanced oil recovery in the Bakken, revitalizing conventional oil fields, and conserving North Dakota's resources.

North Dakota is a leader in technologies for low-emission energy. Through partnerships with industry and support from state and federal entities, an all-of-the-above approach to energy production is a reality. Because of low-emission technologies like carbon capture and storage, choosing between clean, sustainable energy or reliable sources is not necessary. We can have both. This bill supports further development of those technologies and their implementation in a coordinated, sustainable way, bringing value to North Dakota for years to come.