



# WESTERN DAKOTA ENERGY ASSOCIATION

February 11, 2021

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Testimony of:

Geoff Simon, Lobbyist #144

in support of SB 2239

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Chairman Kreun and Committee members:

On behalf of the city, county and school district members of the Western Dakota Energy Association (WDEA), we wish to express our strong support for Senate Bill 2239, which directs the Department of Environmental Quality to employ sound science, available technology and practical economics toward implementation of any greenhouse gas (GHG) regulations imposed by the federal government under the Clean Air Act.

It has been said, and it's a statement with which WDEA agrees, that the greatest threat to the American economy is not climate change; it is climate change regulations that make no economic or environmental sense. The steps outlined in SB 2239 to implement federal GHG regulations provide a common-sense guideline that we hope the Environmental Protection Agency pursues if and when it drafts a GHG rule. The legislation directs the state DEQ to promote the use of the most economic and efficient sources of electric generation; the financial ability of the state's utilities to comply with the regulation; the ultimate cost of the regulation to the state's consumers; and most importantly, the reliability of the grid.

SB 2239 also makes several other key points that should be uppermost in the minds of federal policy makers, such as consideration of the extent to which any regulations will actually affect the global climate. Far too often, we've seen the federal government impose punitive regulations on American companies in a futile attempt to address a global issue. Addressing climate change, and the perception that it is driven by anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions, can only be addressed on a planetary scale. The imposition of expensive regulations on the American energy sector without acknowledging the global nature of climate concerns would be nothing short of foolish.

The legislation also recognizes that any GHG regulation must focus on the individual source of emissions in compliance with the Clean Air Act, rather than imposing arbitrary emission reduction goals on states as we witnessed with the misguided Clean Power Plan. The bill also provides that the final authority for adoption of a state implementation plan rests with the state legislature, specifically the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

WDEA applauds the initiative of Senator Bell for introducing this important legislation, and urges the committee to support the passage of SB 2239.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Western Dakota Energy Association  
1661 Capitol Way, Bismarck ND 58501  
www.ndenergy.org • 701-527-1832