

2023 HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HCR 3015

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HCR 3015
2/9/2023

a resolution urging the federal government to recognize natural gas and nuclear energy as environmentally sustainable economic activities

4:21 PM

Chairman Porter opened the hearing. Members present: Chairman Porter, Vice Chairman D. Anderson, Representatives Bosch, Conmy, Dockter, Hagert, Heinert, Ista, Kasper, Marschall, Novak, Olson, Roers Jones, and Ruby.

Discussion Topics:

- Ensure natural gas availability
- Nuclear energy
- Transitioning to other fuel sources
- Clean, affordable

Rep Corey Mock, District 18, Grand Forks, sponsor, introduced the HB 3015.

Carlee McCloud, President, Utility Shareholders of ND, Testimony # 20185

Additional Written Testimony:

Denise Dykeman # 18962

Duane Sand # 19373

Kristine Anderson, Attorney for Dakota Natural Gas LLC. # 20347

Grant Mills, Policy person for Generation Atomic #20366

4:25 PM Chairman Porter closed the hearing.

Kathleen Davis, Committee Clerk

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HCR 3015
2/10/2023

a resolution urging the federal government to recognize natural gas and nuclear energy as environmentally sustainable economic activities

11:27 AM

Chairman Porter opened the meeting. Members present: Chairman Porter, Vice Chairman D. Anderson, Representatives Bosch, Conmy, Dockter, Hagert, Heinert, Ista, Kasper, Marschall, Novak, Olson, Roers Jones, and Ruby.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

Rep Novak moved a Do Pass to HCR 3015 and Place on the Consent Calendar, seconded by Rep Roers Jones.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Todd Porter	Y
Representative Dick Anderson	Y
Representative Glenn Bosch	AB
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative Jason Dockter	Y
Representative Jared Hagert	Y
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Zachary Ista	Y
Representative Jim Kasper	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	Y
Representative Anna S. Novak	Y
Representative Jeremy Olson	Y
Representative Shannon Roers Jones	Y
Representative Matthew Ruby	Y

13-0-1 Motion carried. Rep. Novak is carrier.

11:28 AM Chairman Porter closed the meeting.

Kathleen Davis, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HCR 3015: Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Rep. Porter, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** and **BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3015 was placed on the Tenth order on the calendar.

2023 SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HCR 3015

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

HCR 3015
3/17/2023

A concurrent resolution urging the federal government to recognize natural gas and nuclear energy as environmentally sustainable economic activities.

10:09 AM Chairman Patten opened the meeting.

Chairman Patten and Senators Kessel, Boehm, Beard and Magrum were present. Senator Kannianen was absent.

Discussion Topics:

- European Union
- Economic activity
- Green energy

10:09 AM Representative Corey Mock introduced the bill.

10:14 AM Carlee McLeod, President, Utility Shareholders of North Dakota, spoke in favor of the bill.

10:14 AM Zach Smith, Communications and Government Relations Director, North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, spoke in favor of the resolution.

10:15 AM Chairman Patten closed the public hearing.

10:15 AM Senator Kessel moved to Do Pass the bill. Motion Seconded by Senator Beard.

10:15 AM Roll call vote was taken.

Senators	Vote
Senator Dale Patten	Y
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	Y
Senator Todd Beard	Y
Senator Keith Boehm	Y
Senator Jordan L. Kannianen	AB
Senator Greg Kessel	Y

Motion passes 5-0-1.

Senator Kessel will carry the bill.

This bill does not affect workforce development.

10:17 AM Chairman Patten closed the meeting.

Rick Schuchard, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HCR 3015: Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Sen. Patten, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3015 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This resolution does not affect workforce development.

TESTIMONY

HCR 3015

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION
TO HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
NO. 3015

Date of Hearing: February 9, 2023

Denise Ann Dykeman 1840 12th St SW, Minot, ND 58701

My name is Denise Ann Dykeman. I am a resident of North Dakota, a parent, a practicing attorney, and a Lutheran. I also have a degree in Life Science and Natural Resource Management and a Masters in Environmental Policy.

First, natural gas is not an environmentally sustainable economic activity.

While natural gas doesn't emit as much greenhouse gas as coal or oil does when *burned*, that is not the only way greenhouse gases escape into the atmosphere. Before it's burned, natural gas leaks at every part of its journey: from the well, during transportation along pipelines, at power plants, and in the homes and businesses where it's burned. That means that at every step, copious amounts of methane—the second most significant climate pollutant—are released into the air, as producers either deliberately vent methane or accidentally allow it to escape from active or abandoned wells or other infrastructure. This is a significant climate change problem and threatens the quality of life in North Dakota and beyond for all future generations.¹ It's not sustainable.

Second, there is no need to ask the Federal Government to declare nuclear power an environmentally sustainable economic activity. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission already does that.²

I would like to see North Dakota take a serious, forward-thinking approach to planning for climate change impacts that considers both climate science and future generations.

Please oppose resolution 3015.

Denise A. Dykeman
1840 12th St SW
Minot, ND 58701

¹ IPCC, 2021: Summary for Policymakers. In: *Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* [Masson-Delmotte, V., P. Zhai, A. Pirani, S.L. Connors, C. Péan, S. Berger, N. Caud, Y. Chen, L. Goldfarb, M.I. Gomis, M. Huang, K. Leitzell, E. Lonnoy, J.B.R. Matthews, T.K. Maycock, T. Waterfield, O. Yelekçi, R. Yu, and B. Zhou (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA, pp. 3–32, doi:[10.1017/9781009157896.001](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009157896.001).

² See <https://www.energy.gov/ne/articles/3-reasons-why-nuclear-clean-and-sustainable>

My name is Duane Sand. I rise in support of HCR 3015. I operated several different types of nuclear reactors in the US Navy, both on land and at sea, aboard several different submarines. I also worked for the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission and supervised the operations of several different commercial nuclear reactors in three different states.

America invented commercial nuclear power in the 1960's. America lead the world in showing how it can be done safely and efficiently. Unfortunately, the American nuclear industry is in great decline with over 20 different nuclear stations being decommissioned across the country, in states like Vermont, Connecticut, Illinois, Michigan and California in the last twenty years. All this while demand for electricity in America is rising, especially with the employment of electric cars and trucks across our great nation. Also several countries, especially China and India, are building more nuclear reactors while we in America are decommissioning ours.

There has only been one new nuclear reactor station built in America since 1984. We have to do more. Nuclear is simply the only solution for future base-loading of our various power grids that is reliable, safe and emits zero carbon emissions.

I have been touting more nuclear in America, especially here in North Dakota, since 2011. All major newspapers in North Dakota have endorsed this idea. Most people in our great state are shocked to realize the very first commercial nuclear power plant built in America was built in Sioux Falls, SD. The Pathfinder.

During the 2011 Legislative Session I was grateful for bipartisan support to have introduced an HCR supporting nuclear power. It passed the House unanimously. Unfortunately, the day after I testified in the Senate Committee in support of the HCR Fukushima happened and the committee voted down the resolution.

Please pass this HCR.

Thank You.



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House Concurrent Resolution 3015 Testimony in Support

House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Representative Porter, Chair

February 9, 2023

Chairman Porter, members of the committee, I am Carlee McLeod, president of the Utility Shareholders of North Dakota, here on behalf of USND utility members, including ALLETE, Montana-Dakota Utilities, Otter Tail Power, and Xcel Energy. We ask you to support HCR3015.

A significant amount of electricity and power in the US comes from natural gas and nuclear energy, which provide economically sustainable energy with low and zero carbon emissions, respectively. As technology races to capture carbon emissions from other generation sources, the US must support existing and future natural gas and nuclear generation options to round out a generation portfolio comprised of reliable, clean, baseload energy. Failure to support these resources would lead to catastrophic energy shortages.

We urge you to support HCR 3015.





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House Concurrent Resolution No. 3015
Testimony in Support
Kristine Anderson, Regulatory Affairs & Corporate Counsel
Dakota Natural Gas, LLC
House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
February 9, 2023

Chairman Porter and members of the Committee, my name is Kristine Anderson. I am the in-house corporate attorney for Dakota Natural Gas, LLC, and I also handle regulatory affairs for the company. DNG supports House Concurrent Resolution No. 3015.

Reliable energy is a vital component of society, impacting everything from quality of life to human progress, and that will remain the case in perpetuity. As North Dakota, the country, and the world consider the way that energy is sourced and produced, the focus cannot be only on renewable energy innovation – it must also include realistic perspectives on current and future energy needs and the sustainable energy sources and will fulfill those needs.

Natural gas is considered by many around the globe to be a primary ingredient in the world's transition to a cleaner energy future. It is abundantly available throughout the United States, and most of the natural gas used throughout the county is domestically produced. Even though it is a fossil fuel, it is cleaner and more efficient than traditional fuels, producing significantly less pollution and greenhouse gases than burning coal or petroleum products; and, appliances, vehicles, and power plants that are powered by natural gas are also highly efficient, making natural gas a cleaner energy option without sacrificing reliability. Additionally, because natural gas requires minimal processing and is efficiently delivered via pipelines, natural gas production and delivery consumes less energy than that used for many other fuel sources, which is something that must also be considered when evaluating the environmental impact of energy sources. Similarly, nuclear energy is a clean energy source that provides a reliable source of power and will help foster sustainable development and energy transition.

Transforming energy infrastructure and transitioning to different energy sources is terribly complex and will be very time consuming. Reducing the discussion of the same to simple narratives that "old" energy sources are bad is both misguided and dangerous. Natural gas and nuclear energy can and will be positive contributions to energy transition by helping to replace energy sources that are, in fact, environmentally unfriendly while, at the same time, continuing to assure that people at home and across the globe have reliable, safe, and affordable energy options that also provide significant economic benefits across sectors, from job creation to low-cost energy to increasing community economic development.

Natural gas and nuclear energy have played a critical role in reducing emissions for many years and they can continue to provide even greater value to the principles of energy transition and economic development while safeguarding reliable, affordable energy and its economic benefits. I respectfully request that you support HCR 3015.

My name is Grant Mills and I am a policy fellow for Generation Atomic, a pro-nuclear organization with volunteers all over the US. Thank you for allowing me the time to testify on this bill. I am testifying in opposition to this bill as it is currently written. Specifically One-Half of it. While natural gas is vital in heating our homes and providing electricity, relying on gas for both of those makes it more likely to lose both. Acknowledging the importance of natural gas does not mean that we need to, or should, classify it as clean. Natural gas releases methane and roughly a pound of CO₂ per kilowatt hour while nuclear plants barely one one hundredth of that. This difference in harmful emissions is why I support nuclear energy and why I am opposed to referring to natural gas as clean.

Thank you again for allowing me to testify on this bill, and I hope these proposed changes are taken into consideration to support a *truly* clean energy future for North Dakota.