



March 10, 2022

Senate Energy Committee Members,

I am providing written testimony in favor of Senate File 3661 which adds legislative support for carbon capture technology to Chapter 216D for reducing greenhouse gas. My testimony is on behalf of the Lignite Energy Council, which is a regional trade association whose members provide power to millions of customers in the Upper Midwest.

Our members currently provide affordable, reliable and dispatchable electricity from North Dakota's lignite coal reserves that supply power to over a million homes in Minnesota. We are able to provide this electricity while maintaining North Dakota's long held status as one of only 14 states recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency as meeting all applicable clean air standards. We have demonstrated it is possible to have clean air, clean water and clean electricity from coal as part of a balanced portfolio of energy resources.

Over the last decade, researchers at the Energy and Environmental Research Center (EERC) at the University of North Dakota have advanced the ability for enhanced carbon capture and sequestration right here in the Midwest and the Lignite Energy Council along with its members have been working hand in hand with them in this pursuit. Through partnerships with private companies based in Minnesota and North Dakota along with the North Dakota Industrial Commission and the US Department of Energy, we have been working for a decade on carbon capture use and sequestration projects, such as Project Tundra, which would greatly reduce carbon emissions without any mandates.

If this project is proven successful this technology could be retrofitted on power plants worldwide, and it could greatly reduce emissions while keeping energy affordable, reliable and dispatchable. This project alone is poised to sequester up to 80% of its carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions resulting in a reduction equivalent to taking 800,000 cars off the roads.

Other innovators are planning to build a system to capture CO₂ emissions from various sources in Minnesota and store them deep underground in North Dakota. Under current technology and research performed by the EERC, there is enough space found miles below the subsurface in North Dakota that could store every ton of CO₂ in the entire country for the next fifty years or it could store all of North Dakota's CO₂ emissions for the next 4,000 years.

With this promising technology, Minnesota should embrace policy to support carbon capture technology as a way to meet greenhouse gas emission reduction goals while keeping reliable and affordable baseload energy in the "all of the above" energy mix.

Thank you for your consideration,

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