



September 1, 2015

The Honorable Jack Dalrymple
Governor
State of North Dakota
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505-0100

Dear Governor Dalrymple:

I am writing to you on behalf of the North Dakota Alliance for Renewable Energy (NDARE) to request you add a person representing energy efficiency and a person who would represent energy consumers to North Dakota's energy policy commission, referred to as the EmPower Commission.

NDARE is a diverse member organization that fosters the development and use of home-grown renewable energy and energy efficiency through education, outreach and public policy advocacy.

According to North Dakota Century Code Chapter 17.07-5, "the commission shall monitor progress made toward the goals outlined in the energy policy and make recommendations to the energy policy as needed". The Code also specifies in Chapter 17.07-01, "1. The energy policy commission is composed of:

- The commissioner of commerce;
- Representatives of the agriculture community, lignite energy council, North Dakota petroleum council, biodiesel or green diesel industry, biomass industry, wind industry, ethanol industry, North Dakota petroleum marketers association appointed, North Dakota investor-owned electric utility industry, generation and transmission electric cooperative industry, lignite coal-producing industry, refining or gas-processing industry, and
- Additional nonvoting members appointed by the governor... (emphasis added)."

The results of a 2015 North Dakota public opinion survey conducted for NDARE by the UND Bureau of Governmental Affairs show that an overwhelming number of North Dakotans support adding consumer (89%) and energy efficiency (87%) representation on the EmPower Commission. In addition, 97 percent of the survey respondents feel that energy efficiency is important to them. The survey findings are attached for your reference.

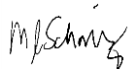
Greater energy efficiency will boost economic productivity and competitiveness and enhance U.S. energy security. According to the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, an energy efficiency investment creates more jobs than an equivalent investment in the economy on average. As an example, a \$1 million investment in a building efficiency improvement will initially support approximately 20 jobs throughout the economy. The International Energy Agency shows how energy efficiency, the "hidden fuel", has the potential to support economic growth, ensure energy-system security and help build wealth.

The importance of public, commercial and residential energy efficiency measures will only continue to grow in North Dakota. The state-level programs currently in existence, including the State Weatherization Program and the State Conservation Grant program for public buildings, have proven both popular and effective. It is time that energy efficiency is a bigger part of the state-level effort to formulate long-term energy policy goals.

NDARE also urges you to add a consumer representative to the EmPower Commission. The current Commission make-up is primarily focused on members that are in the energy production business. North Dakota citizens are the ultimate consumers of energy production and should have a voice at the table regarding long-term policies and strategies that benefit both the industry and consumers.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these recommendations regarding the addition of energy efficiency and consumer representation on the EmPower Commission. The NDARE board of directors and members stand ready to work with you to ensure that our state's long-term energy policy planning process includes robust representation across the energy spectrum.

Sincerely,



Mindi Schmitz
President
North Dakota Alliance for Renewable Energy

Cc: ND Commerce Commissioner Alan Anderson
NDARE Board of Directors