



INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF NORTH DAKOTA

NORTH DAKOTA TRANSMISSION AUTHORITY

Governor
Doug Burgum
Attorney General
Drew H. Wrigley
Agriculture Commissioner
Doug Goehring

April 15, 2024

Director Maria Robinson
U.S. Department of Energy
Grid Deployment Office
Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations

RE: North Dakota Transmission Authority's Letter of Support

Dear Director Robinson,

It is with great pleasure that the North Dakota Industrial Commission acting in its capacity as the Transmission Authority (Authority) provides this letter of support for the North Plains Connector and Related Upgrades project (Project), as part of the Montana Department of Commerce's application for funding under the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships Program, FOA 3195. The Authority's mission is to facilitate "development of transmission facilities to support the production, transportation, and utilization of North Dakota's electric energy."¹

The Project is completely aligned with the Authority's mission. Because North Dakota exports over 30% of energy it produces in the state, the Authority recognizes the critical need for transmission expansion to provide additional export capacity. By developing a high voltage direct current transmission line between North Dakota and Montana, the Project will connect the U.S. eastern and western electric grids. As a critical link between regions, the Project will position North Dakota for continued commercial growth and will help to provide an affordable and reliable grid to service existing and future loads across multiple regions.

The Authority stands committed to collaborating with the Montana Department of Commerce and its partners on this innovative interregional transmission project.

Sincerely,

Claire Vigesaa
Executive Director, ND Transmission Authority