



October 25, 2023

The Honorable Dennis Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
North Dakota House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND

Re: House Bill 1544

Dear Speaker Johnson:

Pursuant to Article V, Section 9 of the North Dakota Constitution, I have signed House Bill 1544 and filed it with the Secretary of State. I also have vetoed Section 2 of HB 1544.

The North Dakota Development Fund Inc. (NDDF) was created by the Legislature in 1991 to provide flexible gap financing through loans and equity investments not available from most conventional lenders for the purpose of economic development in North Dakota. Any request of \$150,000 or more must be reviewed and approved by the NDDF Board of Directors.

Section 2 of HB 1544 creates an extra, unnecessary layer of red tape and bureaucracy by requiring the NDDF to obtain a recommendation for approval from the state's Clean Sustainable Energy Authority before providing financing for projects that enhance production of clean sustainable energy in North Dakota. This redundant hurdle will delay investments in North Dakota projects that have the potential to benefit our citizens and our state's economy.

With time to analyze and implement this policy change since it was approved last spring, we've determined that the desired benefits can be achieved, and the costs of this red tape can be eliminated, through mutual collaboration between NDDF and CSEA. We will work with the North Dakota Industrial Commission, which approves CSEA projects, and NDDF to ensure the respective boards have visibility and clarity of each other's processes and to ensure the most efficient and effective deployment of taxpayer dollars without slowing down projects in red tape.

For the reasons stated above, Section 2 of HB 1544 is vetoed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doug Burgum".

Doug Burgum  
Governor