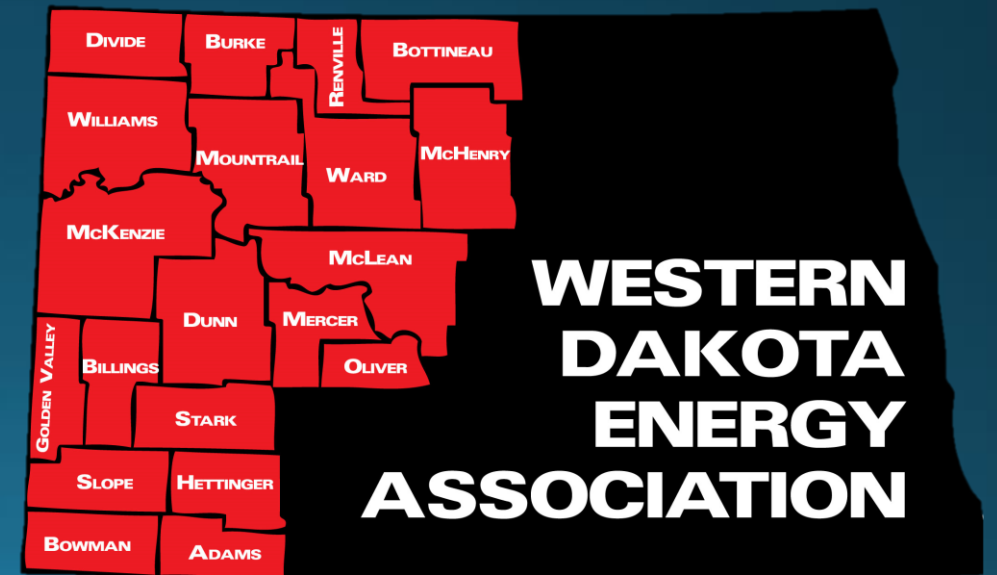


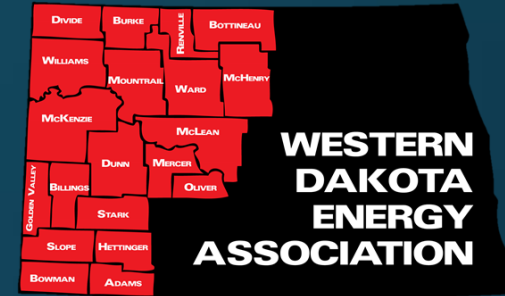
WDEA Update

Working for the West

Presented by Geoff Simon
Western Transportation Roundtable
Watford City – May 22, 2024



WDEA Executive Committee



- **President - Supt. Leslie Bieber - Alexander School District**
- **Vice-President - Mayor Lyn James - City of Bowman**
- Vawnita Best - City of Watford City
- Asst. Supt. Keith Harris - Dickinson School District
- Supt. Tim Holte - Stanley School District
- Shannon Holter - Burke County
- Supt. Nick Klemisch - Coal Conversion Counties, Garrison
- Mayor Howard Klug - City of Williston
- Craig Pelton - Dunn County
- John Phillips - Coal Conversion Counties, Beulah
- Trudy Ruland - Mountrail County



Leslie Bieber



Lyn James

What has WDEA been doing for members?

- Lobbied daily in the 2023 Legislature, following work of interim committees on Western ND issues
- Work closely with CCCA, a subgroup of WDEA
- Updated oil and gas tax distribution study
- Engaged in CO₂ Education, Opposition to Fed regs
- WISE Roads – project wrapped up in 2023
- LoadPass Permits enhancements underway, more eastern counties added to the system
- Keep members informed through newsletter, web site, social media and community interaction



2023 Legislative Engagement



- HB 1012 – Support county and township road and bridge funding in NDDOT appropriations bill
- HB 1020 –Extension - Support budget requests of NDAWN and Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute
- HB 1014 – Industrial Commission budget – salt cavern development, rare earth elements, well reclamation, \$125M loan for wind/hydrogen fertilizer, \$30M in grants and \$250M loan authority to CSEA, \$3M for MN litigation
- SB 1286 – Oil tax trigger, eliminated possible 6% extraction tax, removing it sends positive signal for additional oil industry investment
- HB 1511 – Creates coal severance and sales tax incentive to encourage effort to extract rare earth elements from North Dakota lignite

2023 Legislative Engagement



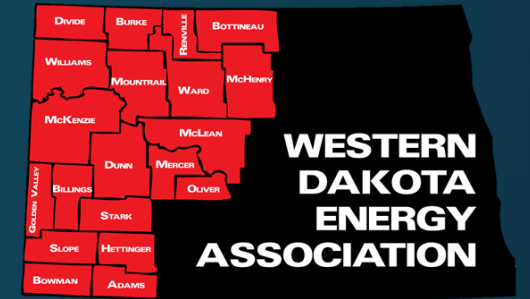
- HB 1429 – Anti-ESG legislation, sends signal that state supports continuing investment in oil, gas and coal
- Assorted eminent domain bills – WDEA opposition to attempts to stifle development of CO₂ capture industry
- HB 1170 – 15-year property tax exemption for new gas distribution systems
- SB 2334 – Sales tax exemption for fertilizer or chemical processing plant; \$20M carveout for Williams County to replace lost revenue if Cerilon is built
- SB 2289 – Directs EDT Committee to develop comprehensive energy policy
- HB 1081 – Study electric vehicle and EV charging tax implications

2023 Legislative Engagement

- HB 1013 and SB 2284 – K-12 funding, per pupil increase, on-time funding, school construction loans increased, free school lunch at 200% poverty, transportation study
- HB 1019 – Budget for CTE, \$20M for career academies not previously funded, OMB includes \$26.5 for inflation
- HB 1532 – School choice bill passed legislature, vetoed by Gov. Burgum, education policy bill provides for interim study of school choice
- HB 1540 – Childcare package - \$22 million to child care assistance; \$15M to incentivize care of infants; \$5M for private sector pilot project; \$2M for childcare worker training; \$3M to boost providers' child care quality



WDEA Industry Impact Study



- Member concerns that GPT distribution is not equitable
- Update the infrastructure needs for cities/counties/townships
- Evaluate adequacy of GPT revenues to local budgets
- Compare infrastructure impacts to other regions of the state
- Develop consensus of funding allocations to support needs
- Initiate strategies for any potential legislative changes

School Construction Coalition



- Initiated by Valley City School Supt. Josh Johnson
- WDEA and several western schools are “charter” members
- Many districts lack tax base to address facility needs
- Low interest loans exist, but not enough for some school districts
- Goal is some form of direct state support for construction
- Discussion ongoing with interim School Funding Task Force

Contact information:

geoff@ndenergy.org

(701) 527-1832