



ND Petroleum Marketers Association
ND Retail Association



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For the record, my name is Mike Rud. I am the president of the North Dakota Retail, North Dakota Petroleum Marketers and North Dakota Propane Gas Associations. Our associations are comprised of 1,000 member businesses, employing over 40,000 people across the Great State of North Dakota.

While I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you, I can't help but ask why are we here? **North Dakota's air is some of the cleanest in the nation!** In 2010, the American Lung Association ranked Mercer County (home to several coal-based power plants) as one of the 25 cleanest counties in the United States. Billings County, home to Theodore Roosevelt National Park, is the third cleanest.

I grew up in Coal Country Unlike the federal government, I can put names to the faces of the businesspeople servicing the mines and the power plants in North Dakota.

Let's briefly look into the numbers to see how the EPA's uncalled for technology might impact the state's entire economy.

A 2010 report conducted by the North Dakota State University Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics highlights the lignite energy industry's contributions to the state economy.

The North Dakota lignite industry's in-state expenditures totaled \$971.0 million in 2010 and were projected at \$979.3 million for 2011. While this number to me is staggering, take a look at the figure when that dollar amount is turned over three times in the economy. North Dakota businesses now potentially realize nearly **Three Billion dollars of total economic activity** from that money!

What about job creation? It's estimated the industry is responsible for a total of 27,000 direct and indirect jobs. If you take a conservative average wage of \$75,000 per year multiplied by the total number of jobs created (27,000) again you get a grand total of just over TWO billion dollars in wages. A huge positive number; however, it's the turnover of that dollar in the economy that excites my members on Main Street North Dakota.

On the conservative side, you are looking at anywhere from a **4-6 Billion dollar boost** to the state's business community. The report details many more positive numbers. I share these figures because we all know when the federal government asks big businesses to make unneeded improvements it tends to slow economic growth.

North Dakota's air is clean and getting cleaner. North Dakotans, our State Environmental officials and great stewards of the land like the Lignite industry, who are proud to call North Dakota home, wouldn't have it any other way.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mike Rud - NDPMA, NDRA, NDPGA