

WDEA Top Legislative Priorities Introduced

Legislation of significant importance to the interests of WDEA members was introduced in the North Dakota House of Representatives this week.

At the top of the list is HB 1366 (<http://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/65-2017/documents/17-0936-01000.pdf>), which would adjust the Hub City funding formula to keep pace with expected growth and meet the need to finance existing debt in Williston, Dickinson and Minot. The same legislation would also deliver financial support to growing Hub City schools, as well as provide an appropriation to fulfill previous oil and gas impact grant commitments made during the 2015-17 biennium. The bill's prime sponsor is Rep. Gary Sukut, R-Williston.

WDEA will also be a strong advocate of HB 1320 (<http://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/65-2017/documents/17-0797-02000.pdf>), legislation that would enhance the operation of WDEA's Uniform Truck Permit System. To achieve a truly uniform system, the bill would require townships in counties that participate in a system to also participate in the same system.

HB 1320 also directs the ND Department of Transportation through its e-permit system for state highways to "allow for the most efficient routing of oversized or overweight loads through the state highway system and take into consideration the impacts on city, county, township, and state roads." Another provision in the bill prohibits local governments from imposing additional fees for the use of roads beyond fees in the uniform permit system, unless a separate agreement was made in which a person or company agreed to pay additional costs. The bill's prime sponsor is Rep. Dan Ruby, R-Minot, who chairs the House Transportation Committee.

The association will also lend its support to HB 1368 (<http://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/65-2017/documents/17-0932-01000.pdf>), which would allow a county board of equalization to appeal a decision by the state board of equalization to reduce the valuation of locally assessed taxable property. Several WDEA member counties have been frustrated by recent state decisions that substantially devalued industrial properties. But current law does not allow counties to appeal the state decision to district court. The prime sponsor of the bill is Rep. Don Longmuir, R-Stanley.

Geoff Simon

Executive Director
Western Dakota Energy Association
701-527-1832 (mobile)
geoff@ndenergy.org