

# Legislative language for establishing EmPower ND

## 2007 Session Laws Chapter 204 § 6

### SECTION 6. NORTH DAKOTA ENERGY INDEPENDENCE INITIATIVE - REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

During the 2007-08 interim, the department of commerce shall convene an energy policy commission for the purpose of developing a comprehensive energy policy for the state that addresses:

1. The policy of this state to stimulate the development of renewable and traditional fossil-based energy within the state with the goal of providing secure, diverse, sustainable, and competitive energy supplies that can be produced and secured within the state to assist the nation in reducing its dependence on foreign energy sources.
2. The policy of this state to promote the development of new technologies, provide innovative opportunities, create additional employment and wealth that contributes to economic development, and decrease dependence on foreign energy supplies.
3. Growth of the fossil fuel and renewable energy industries within this state to encourage the state's competitiveness for both the domestic and export markets.
4. The assistance the state provides in research, development, and marketing of North Dakota-produced energy sources, including biodiesel, biomass, coal, ethanol, geothermal, hydroelectric, hydrogen, natural gas, oil, solar, and wind.
5. The need to:
  - a. Expand the use of existing energy resources such as coal, oil, gas, wind, and hydropower by supporting continued research and development of technologies designed to enhance the use of traditional fuels.
  - b. Examine ways to diversify the state's energy resource base by encouraging the growth of renewable sources such as wind, biomass, geological, solar, and water.
  - c. Evaluate existing tax credits and incentives for all energy resources.
  - d. Modernize and expand the state's energy infrastructure to ensure that energy supplies can be safely, reliably, and affordably transported to homes and businesses.
  - e. Examine potential innovations that will be necessary to improve environmental conditions through the use of new technologies designed to encourage the continued use of fossil fuel as well as renewable resources.
  - f. Review energy industry workforce and training needs and educational opportunities to enhance the future productivity of the energy industry.
  - g. Develop a strategy to maximize the state's market opportunities in regional and global markets.