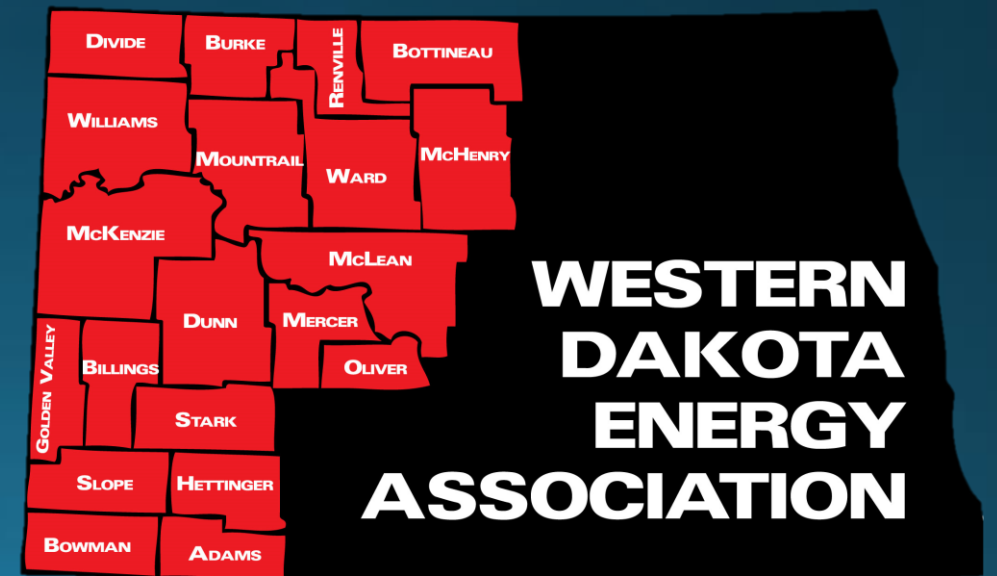


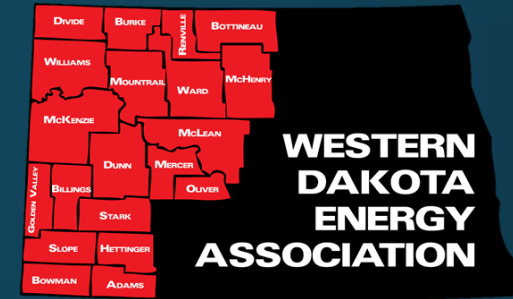
WDEA Update

Working for the West

Presented by Geoff Simon
Western Transportation Roundtable
Watford City – May 27, 2025



WDEA Executive Committee



President - Supt. Leslie Bieber - Alexander School District

Vice-President - Mayor Lyn James - City of Bowman

Vawnita Best - City of Watford City

Steve Holen – McKenzie County 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

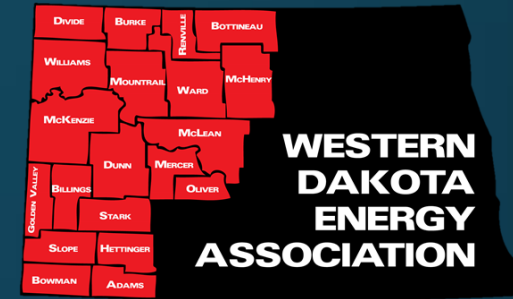


Leslie Bieber



Lyn James

WDEA Leadership Change



- Previously worked as a Senior Public Relations Specialist at Odney.
 - Clients included Hess, Rainbow Energy, Great River Energy, Minnkota, Red Trail Energy, Harvestone Low Carbon Partners, North Dakota Petroleum Foundation, NDDOT – Vision Zero
- Served as Public Information Officer at Dept. of Mineral Resources under Lynn Helms during the Bakken Boom.
- Background in Journalism.
- Lives in Bismarck with her husband and two sons.



What has WDEA been doing for members?

- Lobbied daily in the 2025 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
- Joined ND School Construction Coalition
- Engaged in CO₂ Education, Opposition to Fed regs
- LoadPass Permits enhancements underway, more eastern counties added to the system
- Keep members informed through newsletter, web site, social media and community interaction



2025 Legislative Engagement

- Adjourned Sine Die just after 4:00 am Saturday morning
- 1,089 Measures Introduced (most since 2009)
- 616 Measures Enrolled
- 536 Measures Signed by Governor
- 21 Measures Pending w/ Governor
- 74 Legislative Days Used
- Total budget of \$20.3 Billion
- Major bills included Property Tax Reform, NDDOT \$2.7 billion budget, NDIC Budget, Rare Earth Minerals policy.



2025 Legislative Engagement

Energy Highlights



- SB 2397 – Started as the “non oil county” definition bill. Hoghoused into innovative drilling techniques in the Bakken/Three Forks formations.
- HB 1483 – Drilling incentive outside of the Bakken/Three Forks. Includes study on Stripper Wells.
- HB 1579 – Study relating to the impact of large energy consumers (Data Centers) on the state’s electrical grid.
- SB 2159 – Allows the EERC to study nuclear waste disposal.
- SB 2014 – NDIC Budget; \$25 million EOR; \$100M Pipeline Capacity

2025 Legislative Engagement

Education Highlights

- HB 1476 – DPI may conduct school facility assessments.
Result of WDEA's work on ND School Construction Coalition
- HB 1013 – DPI Budget
- HB 1369 – DPI Policy Bill – increases teacher pay and per pupil funding to 2.5%
- SB 2275 – Supports foreign language programs in early grades.
- HB 1160 & SB 2354 – Bell-to-Bell Cell Phone Ban. Public and Non-Public.
- HB 1482 – School bond elections. Primary/General only, even years.



2025 Legislative Engagement

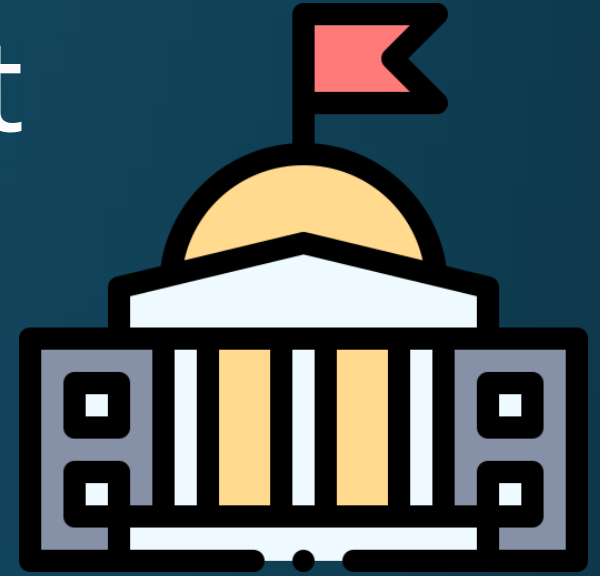
Transportation Highlights



- SB 2012 – DOT Budget - \$2.7 billion. \$160 Million for Prairie Dog, \$230 Million for Flex Fund, Adjusts Highway Tax Distribution Fund. No Gas Tax.
- HB 1065 – County and township road fund; based on road miles.
- HB 1053 – Repeals road system mileage cap of 7%. Leaves 7,700 limit.
- HB 1298 – Increases interstate speed limit to 80 MPH; increases fines.
- HB 1444 – Adds township roads to county road system.
- SB 2183 – \$150 fine for speeding in work zones when workers present.

2025 Legislative Engagement

Government Highlights

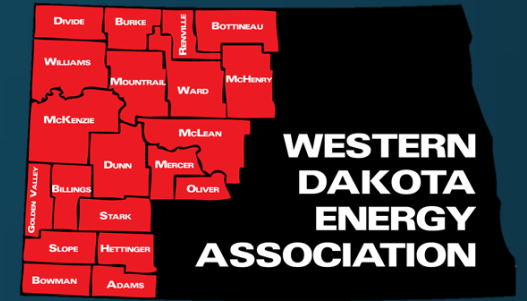


- HB 1176 – Property tax credit \$1,600; 3% caps.
- HB 1577 – Wastewater infrastructure.
- SB 2180 – Public comment requirement for all public boards.
- SB 2308 – Reduction of boards and commissions.
- SB 2230 – Voter education bill.

Ballot Measures – SCR 4008, HCR 3003, SCR 4007

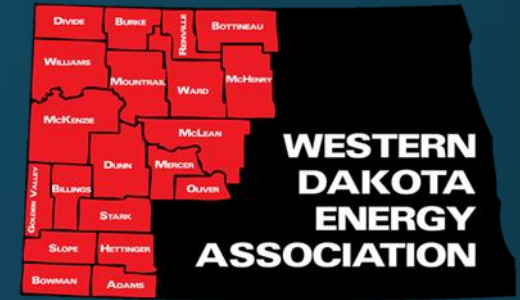
- SB 2323 – Hub City debt relief. 4/5% side of the GPT; \$7m Williston, \$2M Dickinson, \$1M Minot.

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

Contact information:



alison@ndenergy.org

(701) 581-4472 (o)

(515) 314-8192 (m)

geoff@ndenergy.org

(701) 527-1832

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us for our annual meeting
October 8 & 9, 2025 in Watford City