

2011 HOUSE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

HCR 3005

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Political Subdivisions Committee Prairie Room, State Capitol

HCR 3005
January 14, 2011
Job # 12910

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature 

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A concurrent resolution recognizing the 25th anniversary of the formation of North Dakota's sister state relationship with the Providence of Taiwan, Republic of China.

Minutes:

Testimony # 1 & 2

Chairman Johnson: Opened the hearing on HCR 3005.

Rep. Monson: (See testimony #1). Taiwan is the number six trading partner with North Dakota as far as the amount of farm products we sent overseas. We have a close relationship with them so I would hope that you would honor them and the 25th anniversary sisterhood relationship with them and pass the resolution.

Chairman Johnson: In your testimony you talk about putting it on the consent calendar.

Rep. Monson: Many times resolutions just do get put on the consent calendar. If you want to do that that is fine, but I don't think the people in the Kansas City office or Taiwan have any concern one way or another. If you don't put it on the consent calendar than somebody would carry it to the floor and we could make a little bit of fanfare.

Rep. Klemin: What is the significance of the sister state is and do we have a sister state relationship with any other country. Does Taiwan have a sister state relationship with any other state.

Rep. Monson: I think the relationship we have with Taiwan is significant because our United States doesn't have an embassy in Taiwan. Mainland China puts a lot of pressure on Taiwan and has actually vowed at some point to invade Taiwan or make them united again so Taiwan feels very threatened. This is a way to have them get a little bit of self identity. Even though we don't have an embassy there, we do have a consulate of sorts there. It comes more from them than from us; they requested that I would put that in and I said yes I will. I am not aware if North Dakota has a sister state with anyone else. I don't know of any other country that is exactly in the same position as Taiwan. We have diplomatic relations with mainland China and somehow our State Department balances this and we don't have other situations with other countries around the world like we do with Taiwan. We have vowel to protect and stand up for them. We don't have true diplomatic

relations because if we had diplomatic relations with Taiwan we would offend Mainland China. Course Mainland China is a very large market still yet to be developed probably in many ways. It is a very touchy thing and they don't like to even talk about it, but they do like to build these little relationships.

Rep. Kretschmar: Do you have any knowledge whether mainland China would feel irked or harmed or embarrassed by this.

Rep. Monson: I don't know for sure, but I do know that Kansas has passed this and all the rest of the states are looking at passing something like this. I don't think mainland China is threatened by this; all this says is we have had this sister relationship for 25 years and we are not saying we are going to change anything. We do walk a pretty tight rope with the relationships with Taiwan and China. When I was there I noticed that Taiwan and China so get along very well together. Many of the companies that are expanding in China are actually owned and invested in by Taiwanese people. China and Taiwan are the biggest trading partners. I think 40% of all their economy or something like that of all of the trade that Taiwan does with other countries is with neighboring Mainland China. They do get along quite well. Course Mainland China someday does want to see a united China. Many of their pilots from Taiwan were trained here. They do not train their air traffic controllers and pilots in ND any more. I asked why and they said we got too expensive. They now send them to Australia and train them. I did tell them we could maybe work something out and get them back here to UND.

Rep. Maragos: Should we consult with the State Department first to see if it has any impact. Do you think it would be a worthwhile inquiry to make?

Rep. Monson: I did not check. I don't think Kansas checked. I have talked with the people from Kansas and they had already done it. They had no indication that anyone from higher up and had told them it wasn't something they should or shouldn't do. It is just recognition for the 25th anniversary.

Rep. Klemin: I noticed on line two this talks about Providence of Taiwan, Republic of China. Is this correct that way it is written? Is that different from Mainland China?

Rep. Monson: Peoples Republic of China is Mainland China because we recognize them or have diplomatic relations with Mainland China, Taiwan is a Providence; not a country diplomatically. Mainland China and Taiwan have their own government and they are separate. Taiwan is not in the United Nations; the rest of the world recognizes Mainland China as the official China.

Rep. Klemin: Are there other providences in the Mainland China other than Taiwan?

Rep. Monson: The Republic of China is Taiwan. No there are not other providences other than Taiwan. They may be split up into various regions. Taiwan isn't that big.

Rep. Klemin: Should we change the sister relationship with the Province of Taiwan.

Rep. Monson: I took this from what Kansas had passed. I bounced this off of the people in Kansas City and they are sometimes referred to as Province of Taiwan, which is part of mainland China. When I went to Taiwan I presented this document and said this is what I plan to introduce in the next session and hopefully it will pass. They were most happy.

Rep. Hatelstad: I am guessing that is their official title and that is what they want to be recognized by and secondly this is an anniversary card; nothing more than that.

Rep. Monson: You are right.

Al Jaeger, Secretary of State: I encourage the adoption of this particular resolution. Taiwan is about one third the size of North Dakota. Two thirds of that is mountainous and twenty five million people live on what is left. We have noted this relationship in the blue book that last four editions. I took a copy of that particular page and it does refer to Providence of Taiwan, Republic of China. I know that is taken off the document. What Rep. Hatelstad said is exactly right; it is just an anniversary card. They do value our relationship greatly in the Midwest.

Rep. Shirley Meyer: What event occurred in April 3, 1986? Is there a document that creates a sister state? Was it triggered by a certain event?

Al Jaeger: I believe it was just an initiative between them and Gov. Sinner. I do have a copy of the document. It is not particularly real formal. I don't think it is anything that happened with other countries. I think it is an isolated thing. This relationship is very important to them and the amount of trade between us is significant and that is all it is.

Rep. Shirley Meyer: So the term sister state; that is the only one we have.

Al Jaeger: I do not know. It was brought to my attention that the document existed so we decided since it existed that is why we have approved it for the last four additions.

Sheyna Strommen: ND Stockmen's Association: (See testimony #2).

Rep. Kretschmar: What are the approximate square miles of Taiwan?

Sheyna Strommen: I do not know the exact numbers but a previous speaker said it was about one third of the size of ND.

Opposition: None

Hearing closed.

Chairman Johnson: Reopened the hearing on HCR 3005.

Do Pass Motion Made by Rep. Zaiser; Seconded by Rep. Devlin

Discussion: None

Rep. Kilichowski: Will this go on the consent calendar or will it be carried?

Chairman Johnson: I think the wishes of Rep. Monson were for it to be carried so it would get a little bit of notoriety.

Vote: 14 Yes 0 No 0 Absent Carried Carrier: Chairman Johnson

Hearing closed.

Date: 1-14-11
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HER 3005

House Political Subdivisions Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt
Amendment

Rerefer to Appropriations Reconsider

Motion Made By Rep Zaiser Seconded By Rep. Bowlin

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Nancy Johnson	✓		Rep. Kilichowski	✓	
Vice Chairman Hatelstad	✓		Rep. Shirley Meyer	✓	
Rep. Beadle	✓		Rep. Mock	✓	
Rep. Devlin	✓		Rep. Zaiser	✓	
Rep. Heilman	✓				
Rep. Klemin	✓				
Rep. Koppelman	✓				
Rep. Kretschmar	✓				
Rep. Maragos	✓				
Rep. Pietsch	✓				

Total (Yes) 14 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep. N. Johnson

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HCR 3005: Political Subdivisions Committee (Rep. N. Johnson, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
HCR 3005 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2011 SENATE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

HCR 3005

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Political Subdivisions Committee
Red River Room, State Capitol

HCR 3005
March 7, 2011
14955

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A concurrent resolution recognizing the 25th anniversary of the formation of North Dakota's sister state relationship with the Province of Taiwan, Republic of China.

Minutes:

You may make reference to "attached testimony."

Chairman Andrist opened the committee hearing on HCR 3005: a concurrent resolution recognizing the 25th anniversary of the formation of North Dakota's sister state relationship with the Province of Taiwan, Republic of China.

Representative Monson, District 10, introduced HCR 3005. He also introduced an email from Jennifer Clark, regarding this resolution. See written testimony.

Julie Ellingson: North Dakota Stockmen's Association. Stand in support of HCR 3005. See written testimony.

Any others in support of this resolution, opposed to resolution, or neutral position of resolution.

Chairman Andrist closed the hearing on HCR 3005.

Motion for Do Pass: Senator Olafson
2nd: Senator Judy Lee
Role call vote: 5 Yeas, 0 No, 0 Absent
Carrier: Senator Andrist

Committee discussion followed.

HCR 3005 was pulled from the Senate floor for future reconsideration of the committee.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HCR 3005: Political Subdivisions Committee (Sen. Andrist, Chairman) recommends DO PASS (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3005 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2011 TESTIMONY

HCR 3005

Testimony of Rep. David Monson

1

HCR 3005

Chairman Johnson and members of the House Political Subdivisions Committee, for the record I am Rep. David Monson of District 10.

I started working on this resolution last year during the interim while I was still in the position of Speaker of the House in ND. I am no longer the Speaker, but since I started the process of getting this resolution introduced, I thought I should finish the job. The resolution is quite self-explanatory, I believe, but I'll give you a little history of the issue.

The Republic of China, known more commonly to us as Taiwan, has had a close relationship in many various ways with ND for a number of years as the resolution states. Twenty-five years ago we started a sister relationship with Taiwan. Since this is the 25th anniversary, the Taiwan government (more specifically their office in Kansas City) asked if we could pass a resolution in ND commemorating this milestone. I told them I thought it should be an easy sell considering all the connections we have with Taiwan. I hope you concur and give this resolution your full support with a unanimous "Do Pass", and perhaps put it on the Consent Calendar. If you put it on the Consent Calendar, however, it wouldn't get much recognition on the floor. I think this resolution does deserve a bit of fanfare, so a bill carrier could give it a little recognition. I'll leave that up to you. There is a bit of urgency on the part of the Taiwan office in Kansas City, it seems, since they wanted us to do this last year already. Of course we weren't in session, so they had to wait patiently until now. The Consent Calendar is quicker. However you do it is fine with me. I just would appreciate a "Do Pass".

Thanks you, and I'd be happy to answer any questions if there are any.

#2

HCR 3005: Recognizing the formation of North Dakota's sister state relationship with the Province of Taiwan, Republic of China

Testimony of Sheyna Strommen, North Dakota Stockmen's Association

Good morning Madam Chairwoman and members of the Political Subdivisions Committee, for the record my name is Sheyna Strommen and I represent the North Dakota Stockmen's Association.

The North Dakota Stockmen's Association stands in support of House Concurrent Resolution 3005 in recognition of the 25th anniversary of the formation of North Dakota's sister state relationship with the Province of Taiwan, Republic of China. The good relationship between our state and Taiwan is particularly important to North Dakota's beef industry. North Dakota beef producers are proud of the safe, wholesome supply of nutritious beef we produce for domestic consumers and those throughout the world.

We see promising opportunities for beef exports to Taiwan and the Republic of China, which was the United State's fifth largest importer of U.S. beef in 2010. Cattle industry analysts, including the U.S. Meat Export Federation have indicated that Taiwan has the potential for strong growth in the coming years for beef and beef variety meat imports, given the country's low per capita consumption of beef and a small domestic cattle industry. In fact, Taiwan has set new value records for purchases of U.S. beef in each of the past four years and achieved another record in 2010 when U.S. beef exports to the province exceeded 31,000 metric tons valued at \$172.4 million. This was an increase of 42 percent in volume and 51 percent in value over 2009.

Like this Legislative Assembly, the North Dakota Stockmen's Association takes pride in recognizing the silver anniversary of the formation of our sister state relationship with Taiwan and we, too, look forward to a continued, positive relationship for years to come. Thank you.

Testimony of Rep. David Monson

HCR 3005

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Thank you, and I'd be happy to answer any questions if there are any.

NDLA, Intern 02

From: Olafson, Curtis
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2011 9:06 AM
To: NDLA, Intern 02
Subject: FW: HCR 3005 - Taiwan

From: Clark, Jennifer S.
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2011 9:01 AM
To: Andrist, John M.; Laffen, Lonnie J.; Olafson, Curtis; Lee, Judy E.; Dotzenrod, Jim A.
Cc: Monson, David C.
Subject: HCR 3005 - Taiwan

Senate Political Subdivision Committee Members-

I received a telephone call yesterday afternoon from Ms. Duan Jun, First Secretary of the Chinese Embassy in Washington, DC. She is responsible for coordinating local government affairs.

Ms. Duan wanted to me to pass on to the committee members the embassy's concern with some of the language in HCR 3005. Specifically, she took issue with the use of "Republic of China" and reference to the "President of Taiwan". She asked that the committee consider amending the resolution to address these two concerns.

Although I asked Ms. Duan to put her comments in writing for me to forward to the committee members, with the short notice with the hearing on this resolution scheduled for this morning, instead she asked that I forward her message to you. Although I have not confirmed the caller was actually Ms. Duan, I have confirmed that a Ms. Duan does work at the Chinese Embassy as a First Secretary.

Ms. Duan said she can be reached at (202)495-2203 if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you-

Jenn

Jennifer Clark
Counsel
ND Legislative Council
(701) 328-2916
jclark@nd.gov

HCR 3005

Good morning, Chairman Andrist and committee members. For the record, my name is Julie Ellingson and I represent the North Dakota Stockmen's Association.

The North Dakota Stockmen's Association stands in support of HCR 3005. The good relationship between our state and Taiwan is important to the North Dakota beef industry.

We see promising opportunities for beef exports to Taiwan, which was the United States' fifth largest importer of U.S. beef in 2010. Moreover, Taiwan has the potential for strong growth in the coming years for beef imports, given the country's low per-capita consumption of beef and small domestic cattle industry.

Taiwan has set new value records for purchases of U.S. beef in each of the past four years and achieved another record in 2010, when U.S. beef exports there exceeded 31,000 metric tons.

Like the Legislative Assembly, the North Dakota Stockmen's Association takes pride in our relationship and in recognizing the silver anniversary of the formation of our sister state relationship. We support this resolution and ask for you to do the same.