

1999 HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES

HCR 3027

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 3027

House Natural Resources Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 2/05/99

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	x		31.0 - 47.1
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Robin L. Small</i>			

Minutes:

REP. MARAGOS introduces the study resolution. He urges support for this resolution.

TRACY POTTER, FORT ABRAHAM LINCOLN FOUNDATION. Urges passage. SEE HANDOUTS.

SARA COLEMAN, BISMARCK - MANDAN CLB. She states that historic sites are a major ingredient. Unique attractions bring them off of the highway to our main street.

There were no questions and no opposition.

The committee decided to take action on it. REP. DEKREY made a motion for a DO PASS, and REP. CLARK seconded. The roll call was taken....13 YES, 0 NO, 2 ABSENT. It was then placed on the CONSENT CALENDAR. REP. MARTINSON was the carrier.

Date: 2.5.99

Roll Call Vote #: 1

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO.

House House Natural Resources Committee

- Subcommittee on _____
- or
- Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass & put on the consent calendar

Motion Made By DeKrey Seconded By Clark

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Mick Grosz	✓				
Vice-Chairman Dale Henegar	✓				
Representative David Drovdal	✓				
Representative Pat Galvin	✓				
Representative Duane DeKrey	✓				
Rep. Darrell D. Nottestad	✓				
Representative Jon O. Nelson	✓				
Representative Byron Clark	✓				
Representative Todd Porter	✓				
Representative Jon Martinson	✓				
Reperesentative Lyle Hanson	✓				
Representative Scot Kelsh	✓				
Representative Deb Lundgren					
Representative Sally M. Sandvig	✓				
Representative Dorvan Solberg					

Total (Yes) 13 No 0

Absent 2

Floor Assignment DeKrey Martinson

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
February 5, 1999 11:39 a.m.

Module No: HR-24-2048
Carrier: Martinson
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HCR 3027: Natural Resources Committee (Rep. Grosz, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** and **BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3027 was placed on the Tenth order on the calendar.

1999 SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES

HCR 3027

1999 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HCR3027

Senate Natural Resources Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date March 12, 1999

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	x		0-250
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Dyla A. Tegen</i>			

Minutes:

SENATOR TRAYNOR opened the hearing on HCR3027: A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO STUDY HERITAGE TOURISM.

No one appeared in support or opposition on HCR3027, but written testimony was submitted previously from David Borlaug, ND Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Foundation, and Tracy Potter, Fort Abraham Lincoln Foundation, both in support of HCR3027. Support came from within the committee.

SENATOR HEITKAMP moved for a DO PASS, seconded by SENATOR FREBORG. Roll call vote indicated 6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 Absent and not voting. SENATOR CHRISTMANN volunteered to carry the bill.

SENATOR TRAYNOR closed the hearing on HCR3027.

Roll Call Vote #: / Date: 3-12-99

1999 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HCR 3027

Senate Natural Resources Committee

Subcommittee on _____
or
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken DO PASS

Motion Made By Heitkamp Seconded By Freborg

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator John T. Traynor, Chr	✓				
Senator Tom Fischer, Vice Chr	✓				
Senator Randel Christmann	✓				
Senator Layton Freborg	✓				
Senator Joel C. Heitkamp	✓				
Senator Rolland W. Redlin	✓				

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Christmann

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
March 12, 1999 11:58 a.m.

Module No: SR-45-4653
Carrier: Christmann
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HCR 3027: Natural Resources Committee (Sen. Traynor, Chairman) recommends DO PASS (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3027 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

1999 TESTIMONY

HCR 3027

**House Natural Resources Committee
Hearing on HCR3027**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is David Borlaug. I live in Washburn, and am chairman of the North Dakota Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Foundation, which maintains both the Fort Mandan replica and the ND Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center in Washburn. I am also currently president of the national Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.

I speak in favor of HCR3027, because attention should be given the concept of Heritage Tourism. North Dakota is brimming with a rich and colorful history, dating back a thousand years or more with the Native American tribes that lived here. Add Lewis and Clark, George Custer and Theodore Roosevelt, and you can see why visitors from around the world find our state's story so fascinating.

Imagine, for example, that hundreds of years before Red River Valley farmers were considering which corn hybrids to plant, Mandan Indians were successfully cultivating corn, squash, beans and sunflowers along the banks of the Missouri River.

North Dakota's tourism industry is largely dependent upon private, non-profit foundations. From Medora to Fort Abraham Lincoln to Fort Mandan to Bonanzaville to the Great Plains Art Museum, non-profit foundations are the very bedrock of our state's tourism infrastructure.

And often, what makes these non-profits successful in their endeavors is a special relationship with state agencies. Our own example in Washburn is a classic one. While our foundation is solely responsible for a nearly \$300,000 annual budget, maintaining both the Fort Mandan replica and a \$1.5 million interpretive center, complete with 24-hour access rest area; the interpretive center itself is owned by the People of the State of North Dakota, through the ND Parks and Recreation Department.

While we enjoy the strong support of this agency, as well as others, including Tourism, Historical Society and Department of Transportation, we are not part of their budgets.

Washburn is a small town with a big responsibility, to host hundreds of thousands of visitors who will be seeking out the Lewis and Clark story in North Dakota. We love the challenge, and are up to it. We are also grateful

House Natural Resources Committee

Hearing on HCR3027

that you are considering a study on how organizations like ours fit into the whole tourism picture here in North Dakota.

Foundations, working with state agencies are making things happen. Let's see how we can ensure that this success continues, and is enhanced in the years to come.

Thank you.



CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

February 1, 1999

The Dickinson Convention & Visitors Bureau supports the proposal for a study resolution to study the issue of heritage tourism and the relationships between the State Historical Society of North Dakota, the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department, the North Dakota Tourism Department, the Department of Economic Development and Finance and the private sector promoters and developers of heritage tourism in North Dakota.

The Mission Statement of the West River Regional Tourism Council states: The West River Regional Tourism Council is organized to be an advocate for the advancement of North Dakota Western Heritage through Tourism. One of the goals described is "To preserve the Western Heritage and Lifestyle through the industry of Tourism." This group of grassroots individuals with heritage vacation businesses have organized themselves to preserve their heritage lifestyles through their business endeavor.

The Prairie Outpost Park and Joachim Regional Museum in Dickinson is dedicated to the prairie heritage of the settlers that came to southwest North Dakota. This Museum Complex has formed a living history through the exhibits they display and the tours that are offered through the various homestead buildings that open to the public.

Clearly heritage tourism is active, not only in Dickinson, but also in many of our smaller communities throughout southwestern North Dakota. Many of our neighboring communities take pride in their county museums, offering wonderful exhibits for the tourists.

Terri Thiel
Executive Director

Mister Chairman, members of the House Natural Resources Committee, my name is Tracy Potter. I am the President and Executive Director of the Fort Abraham Lincoln Foundation. I am here in support of HCR 3027, a resolution to launch an interim study of the value of heritage tourism to North Dakota and ways that the presentation of our rich heritage might be improved.

The INTRA study mentioned in the resolution confirmed what some tourism leaders already knew, that North Dakota's heritage, its legacy, is a lure to bring visitors to our state. Two or three years before the Centennial, before INTRA, the Parks Director, Dr. Eiken, and the Tourism Director, Jim Fuglie, put together something called the "American Legacy Tour."

This recognized two things. First, that North Dakota didn't have a stand-alone destination attraction like Yellowstone or Disneyland. If we were to make the state a primary destination for tourists, we needed to link several attractions, create or enhance a theme that tied them together, and market it appropriately.

The second thing the American Legacy Tour recognized was the value of our old places. The ancient Knife River Indian Villages, visited by Lewis and Clark; the fur trade era of Fort Union National Historic Site; The 7th Cavalry era at Fort Abraham Lincoln; and the cattle ranching days represented in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

These sites have had remarkable, important improvements in the last decade. But there are other sites in the state, many more, with important histories that are nearly forgotten.

One example of that would be what I've referred to as the trail of Civil War battles in North Dakota. OK, so there were no confederates up here (except the ones who were let out of prison camp and assigned to Fort Rice as "galvanized Yankees"). But there were battles, huge battles, across North Dakota in 1862, 1863 and 1864.

From a six-week siege at Fort Abercrombie, to Whitestone Hill, to the Killdeer Mountains, and into the Bad Lands, Union soldiers fought Dakota and Lakota Indians. The battle at Killdeer involved more warriors on both sides than were at the Battle of the Little Big Horn. Sitting Bull fought there that day in 1864.

But, if you go to the Killdeer Battlefield State Historic Site, you bounce along miles of a dirt farm road to reach a tiny marker and a couple graves. There is nothing to satisfy the curious, unless you get invited to the neighboring farmhouse where there are terrific maps and artifacts down in the basement.

There is so much left to do.

With the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial fast approaching, there will be increased interest in heritage tourism and there will be plans to turn that historical interest to permanent advantage to North Dakota's tourism sector.

This resolution identifies four players in state government who should be working together to

assist the development of heritage tourism. It also recommends involving the private sector players like the Fort Abraham Lincoln Foundation, the TR Medora Foundation, the ND Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Council, the Friends of Fort Union and Fort Totten, the Fort Ransom Sodbusters and many more.

It may be that the legislature has a role to play in the next round of development of our heritage tourism infrastructure and marketing efforts. You will almost certainly be asked to fund some of the developments in coming years. But, all of that aside, in my discussions with local tourism leaders around North Dakota concerning this resolution, we've all agreed on one thing. Passage of this resolution can do no harm and will do good, if by nothing else, by focusing attention on this important and growing sector of our state's economy.

I urge you to support HCR 3027. Thank you.