

1999 SENATE AGRICULTURE

SCR 4018

1999 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR 4018

Senate Agriculture Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 2/4/99

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	X		2110-3746
2/11 2		X	4390-5057
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Tricia Jorgensen</i>			

Minutes:

Senator Wanzek called the meeting to order, roll call was taken, 1 member was absent.

Senator Wanzek opened the hearing on SCR 4018.

Senator Kroeplin introduced the bill. Felt is was self explanatory.

Roger Johnson spoke in favor of the bill. Testimony enclosed.

Mark Sitz from the ND Farmer's Union spoke in support of the bill. Sending this message to Congress is appropriate.

Christopher Dodson from the ND Catholic Conference spoke in favor of the bill.

Dave Huey from the Attorney General's Office spoke in favor of the bill. This issue has been worked on for quite some time. National problem needs a national solution.

Senator Wanzek: Are we just making ourselves feel good or does it really have an impact in Washington?

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Senate Agriculture Committee  
Bill/Resolution Number Scr 4018  
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Dave Huey: We as Attorney Generals feel we have an influence so I don't see why you wouldn't.

Julie Ellingson from the ND Stockmen's Association spoke in favor of the bill.

Representative Kerzman spoke in support of the bill. Very discouraging the way prices are. Very limited in what we can do about it.

Lance Gaebe from the ND Grain Growers Association spoke in favor of the bill.

Mary Christenson from the Dakota Resource Council stood in favor of the bill.

Senator Wanzek closed the hearing on SCR 4018.

FEBRUARY 11, 1999

Discussion was held.

Senator Klein made the motion for a Do Pass.

Senator Urlacher seconded.

ROLL CALL: 7 Yes, 0 No

CARRIER: Senator Kinnoin

Date: 2/11  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

1999 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR 4018

Senate Agriculture Committee

Subcommittee on \_\_\_\_\_  
or  
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken Do Pass

Motion Made By Klein Seconded By Urlacher

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Wanzek	✓				
Senator Klein	✓				
Senator Sand	✓				
Senator Urlacher	✓				
Senator Kinnoin	✓				
Senator Kroepin	✓				
Senator Mathern	✓				

Total (Yes) 7 No 0

Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Floor Assignment Senator ~~Kroepin~~ Kinnoin

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



REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)  
February 11, 1999 5:35 p.m.

Module No: SR-28-2637  
Carrier: Kinnoin  
Insert LC: . Title: .

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SCR 4018: Agriculture Committee (Sen. Wanzek, Chairman) recommends DO PASS**  
(7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SCR 4018 was placed on the  
Eleventh order on the calendar.

1999 HOUSE AGRICULTURE  
SCR 4018

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR 4018

House Agriculture Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 3-11-99

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
Two SCR 4018	x		39.4 to 55
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Arlin Hanson</i>			

Minutes:

Summary of Resolution: Urges Congress to address concentration and consolidation in the meat and grain industries so farmers and ranchers can compete fairly and profitably.

Sen Krauter:

Sen Kroplin: Dist 23 Sponsor of SCR 4018 Address's the concentration of the Meat packing industry and pending merger of Cargill Continental grain companies. We think our Federal Govt should be looking at the anti-trust laws as they pertain to mergers and concentration of power. In the past they have broken up Amoco and Ma Bell. And now in Agriculture we are losing our competition to the big mergers.

Bob Representing the ND Pork Producers Council and National Pork Producers Council.

We discussed this at our Pork forum last week and our in complete support of this resolution.

We are putting together a task force to study concentration in the livestock industry.

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House Agriculture Committee

Bill/Resolution Number Scr 4018

Hearing Date *Click here to type Hearing Date*

Motion by Rep Froelich for a DO PASS second by Rep Nowatzki motion prevailed

Vote Total    YES    14    NO    0    ABSENT    1 Carrier Rep Froelich

Date: 3-11-99  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 4018

House AGRICULTURE Committee \_\_\_\_\_

Subcommittee on \_\_\_\_\_  
or  
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken DO PASS

Motion Made By Froelich Second By Nowatzki

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Eugene Nicholas, Chaiman	✓		Bob Stefonowicz	✓	
Dennis E. Johnson, Vice Chm	✓				
Thomas T. Brusegaard	✓				
Earl Rennerfeldt	✓				
Chet Pollert					
Dennis J. Renner	✓				
Michael D. Brandenburg	✓				
Gil Herbel	✓				
Rick Berg	✓				
Myron Koppang	✓				
John M. Warner	✓				
Rod Froelich	✓				
Robert E. Nowatzki	✓				
Phillip Mueller	✓				

Total (Yes) 14 No 0

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Froelich

1999 TESTIMONY

SCR 4018

**Testimony of Roger Johnson  
Commissioner of Agriculture  
Senate Concurrent Resolution 4018  
February 4, 1999  
Senate Agriculture Committee  
Roosevelt Park Room**

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Chairman Wanzek and members of the Senate Agriculture Committee, my name is Roger Johnson and I am the Commissioner of Agriculture.

I am here today in support of SCR 4018, which calls on Congress to address concentration and consolidation in the meat and grain industries so farmers and ranchers can compete fairly and profitably.

The planned merger between Cargill and Continental Grain Company is only the latest of many mergers and consolidations that have been occurring in many sectors, including the broiler industry, meatpackers, banks, railroads and seed companies, just to name a few. In fact, economic concentration in eight different agricultural marketing and processing sectors continues to grow, with over 50% of the market controlled by the top four firms in each industry (Attachment 1).

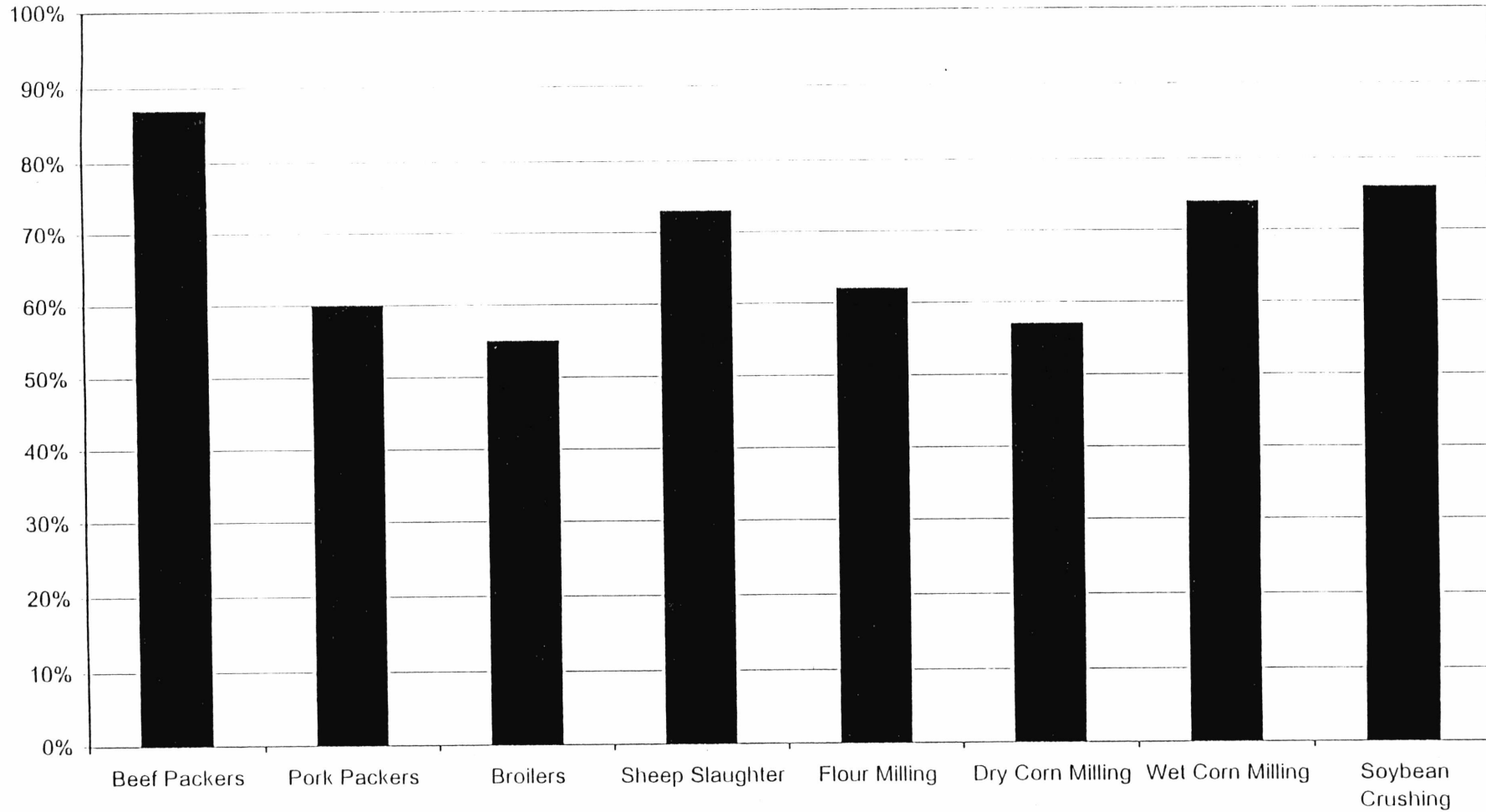
The effects of economic concentration are already adversely affecting farmers, ranchers, and consumers in North Dakota through market limitations, a lack of competition, and lower prices. For these reasons, I support National Farmers Union's recent call for a moratorium on all pending and proposed mergers and acquisitions of agricultural interests of significant size until a net farm income study is completed and publicly reviewed. I believe that we must act now to address the problems caused by economic concentration in all agricultural sectors.

Relevant federal agencies and departments, including the Justice Department, Attorney General, Department of Commerce, Federal Trade Commission, and USDA, must also be encouraged to aggressively and proactively deal with the issues relating to and created by economic concentration.

Chairman Wanzek and committee members, I urge you to support SCR 4018. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

# Concentration of Agricultural Markets

(Ratio of top four firms relative to all firms)



Source: University of Missouri, 1997.