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2003 HOUSE AGRICULTURE
HCR 3010

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2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HCR 3010

House Agriculture Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 1---23---03

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
ONE		B	4.0 TO 47.7
TWO	A		0.0 TO 30.9
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Edward D. Clayton</i>			

Minutes

VICE CHAIRMAN POLLERT: Committee Members, we will open on HCR 3010.

Representative Gullickson. Would you like to start?

REPRESENTATIVE GULLICKSON: Thank you Vice Chairman Pollert and members of the Committee. I bring forward a Concurrent Resolution urging Congress to require the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service to implement a management plan that supports the right of North Dakota ranchers to graze livestock in the national grasslands.

Over the last couple of years we have been very concerned about the direction that a proposed management plan has gone. The impact that it will have on our ranchers who have ranching operations with Nation Grass Lands. In North Dakota there are three such associations.

We have a representative from each of those. About the impact. The economic impact it will have to their ranches and communities. We think it is important to get the full weight of North Dakota behind this Resolution. There have been Congressional Hearings. The Governor invited

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Page 2
House Agriculture Committee
Bill/Resolution Number HCR 3010
Hearing Date 1--23--03

the Forest Service to come here last year. We had a full hearing on the management plan and that what they are doing is not good for North Dakota. We have the support of our Congressional Delegation, our Governor etc. The Forest Service have been very resistant to changes in management. I am going to step back and let the others testify. We have an amendment to this Resolution. We are also going to have a petroleum amendment..

I am also going to pass out a letter from the Congressional National Congressional Delegation.

REPRESENTATIVE Joel Heitkamp. I am a State Senator. Our District has one of these Grass Lands. I am open to the Petroleum Industry in this HRC. If you go on to line five Of page two and really that is what we are getting at. I think the Committee should understand it is not in these guys best interest to mismanage that land. That is how they make there living.

That land was meant for cattle. Buffalo before that. The reality is that if they don't manage that land properly they are not going to have it for their kids or even for themselves a year later. We need to do everything we can to send a strong signal that we stick up for our North Dakota Ranchers. The Federal Government need to take a good look at people living out here on the prairie. Not try to exclude us from the land that surrounds us. That is why I am in support of this HCR.

VICE CHAIRMAN POLLERT: My name is David Drovdal. I am from District 39 from South West North Dakota. Western North Dakota goes back for ever for cattle grazing in North Dakota. It is a land of marriage of land and cattle. The number one obstacle is our own government. What this Resolution dose or says is grazing is a good for National Grass Lands. We would like to work with the US Forest Service and come up with management plan that is workable for ever. Not to revisit every five or ten years. We put our rancher through great

Joel Heitkamp
Operator's Signature

10/16/03
Date

Page 3

House Agriculture Committee
Bill/Resolution Number HCR 3010
Hearing Date 1--23--03

expense to revisit the plan so often. I also have an amendment that I have been asked to offer and I have talked to people involved with the HCR in agreement as top the resolution will pass these amendments out.

VICE CHAIRMAN POLLERT: NEXT.

BEA WALD:; I am Bea Wald. I am Vice President of the North Dakota Grazing Association.

I am also on the State Board of Township offices association. I am going to basically read a comment. I am speaking on behalf of HCR 3010. Our economy and future depends on this Resolution and our social structure that will be affected by this management plan. This land was purchased by the Federal Government. Under the land utilization project for grazing.

There Congressional Mandate there are Federal Laws that dictate this. There is no one unaffected in the State. Everyone pays property taxes or has a child in the educational system. Presently, approximately \$600.00 dollars per head go into the fund for foundation aid checks for each school districts funding. This will fall under the current plan as written. We the ranchers feel and the North Dakota Economist feel it is going to fall dramatically and who is going to wind up picking up the bill. The rest of North Dakota. The tax payers.

They will cover the shortfall. With the new guide lines management, access and the world transportation system will be affected. It looks like no science was to done to support The environmental impact and no one remembered to read the Federal Law establishing The Federal Land which plainly states is for the economic and social support for North Dakota. North Dakota can't afford this plan. Please support this Resolution:

VICE CHAIRMAN POLLER: Next person in support of HCR 3010.

Page 4

House Agriculture Committee
Bill/Resolution Number HCR 3010
Hearing Date 1--23--03

BRUCE HACKINSON: I am from Mc Cloud, ND. I am the president of the Cheyenne Grazing Association. We are a grazing association in the southeastern part of ND. Of about 72,000 thousand acres. We raise approximately ten thousand cows on these grass lands. We have been arguing with the Forest Service the past several years. This new plan that they are trying to put into place. With there estimates, they say it will only be a ten to fifteen percent cut. With our records and some Doctors out of NDSU . Evaluations saying that we could lose Thirty to sixty percent of our grazing. This is quite concerning to us. All of our overhead stays the same. If we can stay in business. What are trying to do is support viable family units. When you take cuts of 10 or 50 percent. There are several of my neighbors that will not exist. Bigger ranchers will obsorb the smaller ranchers. The younger ranchers that are trying to get into place just won't be able to justify going to their banker asking for a loan. Very few bankers will go with this. After the Forest Service took charge in the early sixties, cuts have come. Fifteen percent, just continually chipping away. What this Bill says is that we can't afford cuts. Main street need our dollars. With the cuts our income tax will go away. We are the last one that want to do any harm to the land. I ask for your support. We feel that the Grass Lands science is flawed.

VICE CHAIRMAN POLLERT: Any one else in support of HCR 3010?

RON NESS: My name is Ron Ness. Executive Director of the North Dakota Petroleum Council. We support the Resolution and the amendments. This has been a struggle for many . The debate continues. {{{{PLEASE SEE NORTH DAKOTA PETROLEUM COUNCIL'S WHITE PAPER WHICH IS ATTACHED}}}}

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10/16/03
Date

Page 5

House Agriculture Committee
Bill/Resolution Number HCR 3010
Hearing Date 1--23--03

VICE CHAIRMAN POLLERT: Anyone else to testify in favoar of HCR. 3010?

DALE PATTON: My name is Dale Patton. I am the County Commissioner from Mc Clain County. We support HCR 3010. Our county feels very strongly about this Resolution.

VICE CHAIRMAN POLLERT: NEXT.

KETH WINTER: Mr. Chairman, Keth Winter from McKenzie County. President of the Mc Kenzie County Grazing Association. We do support the Resolution.

VICE CHAIRMAN POLLERT: Any additional testimony.

SANDY CLARK: {{{PLEASE SEE ATTACHED TESTIMONY}}}

VICE CHAIRMAN POLLERT: Any additional testimony.

MARK SITZ: We support HCR 3010

VICE CHAIRMAN POLLERT: Any additional testimony in favor of HCR. Any opposition?

ELIXUS GUTHRIE: --no sure of spelling-- My name is Elixus Guthrie of Bismarck.

I don't support this Resolution for a variety of reasons. When I read it, the first thing I saw is that the facts are not correct. There are no rights to graze to on public land. Multa use. All citizens should be able to participate in diversity of use of lands . Management of land is not just for oil-gas and grazing. Just like there are no rights to hunt on private land. I think the HCR Runs counter to multiple use. Multiple is where all citizens have a say in how the land is to be used. I was in Lisbon for the meeting that was held there as to National Grasslands. It was a packed house for a wide diversity of use. Somehow that was lost in the message that was brought before you. I have heard about laws that mandate land for use for livestock. Those laws do not exist. Saying they exist dose not make them exist.

REP. FROELICH : Do you have the facts and the data?

Page 6

House Agriculture Committee

Bill/Resolution Number HCR 3010

Hearing Date 1--23--03

ELIXUS There are a lot of facts and data.

REP. FROELICH : Could you provide us with these facts and data?

ELIXUS: No real answer.

REP. ONSTAD : Do you think we are better served by? NDSU or Feds?

ELIXUS: I would not use NDSU as sole information provider.

BOB SCHAIBLE: Bob brought along some proposed amendments to House Concurrent

Resolution No 3010. He also passed out testimony. Which is attached. The facts and figures

are in the testimony. Bob was present in a neutral position. He was representing himself.

Please read amendments. Please consider using my amendments.

VICE CHAIRMAN POLLERT: We will CLOSE ON HCR 3010

