

2011 SENATE INDUSTRY, BUSINESS AND LABOR

SCR 4021

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Industry, Business and Labor Committee
Roosevelt Park Room, State Capitol

SCR 4021
February 16, 2011
Job Number 14620

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Eva Liebelt

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to study the feasibility and desirability of developing a strategic partnership between the State Tourism Division and Corresponding tourism departments or alliances of tourism departments of the Indian tribes within North Dakota

Minutes:

Testimony Attached

Chairman Klein: Opened the hearing.

Senator Richard Marcellais: Introduced the bill. Testimony attached.

Senator Nodland: Asked if the individual tribes have created their own inner tribe tourism department.

Senator Marcellais: That's correct. Each tribe has their own tourism department. He talked about the Turtle Mountain one and said they would like to partner up with the North Dakota tourism division and make it strong in advertising the Native American reservations within the State.

Senator Andrist: Asked if the department of tourism has been unsympathetic to the need. He felt this is one of the missions, to work with everybody, to promote tourism. He asked if he saw some failing of the tourism department.

Senator Marcellais: He said that the alliance had just been formed and they had been cooperating and working with the North Dakota tourism. They had a meeting last week in Spirit Lake.

Chairman Klein: Stated that this is new, even with the tribes it was started in early 2011.

Senator Marcellais: Yes.

Senator Andrist: Stated that he thought this would happen on its own without a resolution. Asked if he thought it was really needed.

Senator Marcellais: Said that he believed it would help to strengthen the partnership between the North Dakota tourism and intertribal alliance department.

Senator Murphy: Asked if they see this beginning program being aimed at economic development or more to educate people and bring them around.

Senator Marcellais: He replied both of those would help. One of the things he had proposed as a Legislator is having an orientation for the Legislation itself. He felt it would help to educate some of the Legislators about the Native American reservations.

Senator Schneider: Asked if he also had a delayed bill introduced on this?

Senator Marcellais: Yes I did.

Senator Schneider: Asked if some of the rationale of the committee rejecting that bill was that they could go forward with the resolution. He asked what kind of partnership exists between the individual tribes and the State.

Senator Marcellais: Yes, and said that they have a representative from the Fort Yates tribe that could answer that question.

Senator Larsen: Asked on his reservation, how many people comprise the board for the tourism?

Senator Marcellais: Said that there is one position but a committee of ten.

Scott Davis, Executive Director of the North Dakota Department of Indian Affairs: He is charged with creating better relationships between State agencies and tribal agencies. He also serves as the liaison between the Governor and tribal chairs. He covers a variety of things, like game and fish, roads and so forth. He stated that he was approached and asked how they could better link themselves with tourism in North Dakota. He said he told them to become organized, aligned. It came about by some recommendations regarding the value of organizing yourself as a tribal tourism alliance. His main purpose is to get them active and participating in the Legislative session. Getting to know the people and understanding how bills are drafted, how lobbying works. He said he sees a high value in tribal tourism. Said he didn't think there was a strategic plan and maybe this study could help with that. He shared that they want to bring in non-native hunters to the reservations to hunt and to spend some money. He said he wanted to educate the hunters about their land and their culture and also have good time hunting.

Chairman Klein: Asked if the hunting rules were different on the reservation then they are in the rest of North Dakota.

Scott: He said that the rules were similar but different rates and fees. They would like to get more out of state hunters. He said it is jobs for them to be able to guide, it is a business.

Senator Andrist: Asked if the tribes or reservations have the ability to vary the regulations of the game and fish department.

Scott: Said every tribe is sovereign and they do have the authority to set those guidelines and the hunting fees, the hunting dates and seasons according to what they see fit. It is an opportunity for non-natives to hunt a little longer than with the state regulations. He also stated that there are Memorandum of Understanding agreements between the State Game and Fish and the tribes.

Randy Phelan, Director of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Airfare Tourism Department: Testimony attached.

Chase Iron Eyes, Assistant In House Attorney for the Standing Rock and Sioux Tribe: He brought Chairman Murphy's testimony. He said it would help to quantify or narrow or flush out some of the benefits the tribes are already giving to the State of North Dakota and the State of North Dakota is already giving to the tribes. He said that he thinks the North Dakota State Tourism Department could well support this effort to solidify this working relationship. He said that he thinks some money should come from the resolution, appropriation money to actually fund such a study. The results of the study would be available in a year. He continues to talk about people coming to North Dakota and why they come. He said the North Dakotans are kind, honest, hard working and even quaint. He feels that we are old fashioned here. He said they come for the human element; this is Custer, Sitting Bull territory. He concluded with saying that he would like to see a study done to see what this tourism is adding to the state.

Leah McCloud, Tourism Director for the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, Belcourt, ND: Testimony attached. Also commented on the Trenton Indian Service and they also have a lot to offer and shared what they have to offer in that area.

Sara Otte Coleman, North Dakota Department of Commercial Tourism: She shared what has been happening and the changes that are going on. She also said that the Indian tourism has been already accessing grants and some of them are the infrastructure grants and the marketing and events grants.

Chairman Klein: Asked if she saw any other issues other than money and ideas.

Sara: No, they are just anxious to take it to the next level, as anxious as they are. To answer the question about the size of the industry, Agriculture is eight billion, Oil a little over five billion and Tourism was 4.3 billion.

Chairman Klein: Closed the hearing.

Senator Nodland: Moved a do pass.

Senator Schneider: Seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Yes-7 No-0

Senator Murphy to carry the bill

Date: 2/16/11
 Roll Call Vote # 1

2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR 4021

Senate Industry, Business and Labor 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 Senator Nodland Seconded By Senator Schneider

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chairman Jerry Klein	✓		Senator Mac Schneider	✓	
VC George L. Nodland	✓		Senator Philip Murphy	✓	
Senator John Andrist	✓				
Senator Lonnie J. Laffen	✓				
Senator Oley Larsen	✓				

Total (Yes) 7 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Senator Murphy

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SCR 4021: Industry, Business and Labor Committee (Sen. Klein, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** (7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
SCR 4021 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2011 HOUSE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

SCR 4021

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Political Subdivisions Committee
Prairie Room, State Capitol

SCR 4021
March 17, 2011
Job # 15577

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature 

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

SCR directing the Legislative management to study the feasibility and desirability of developing a strategic partnership between the State Tourism Division and corresponding tourism departments or alliances of tourism departments of the Indian tribes within ND promoting tourism in ND.

Minutes:

Testimony # 1, handout #2

Chairman Johnson: Opened the hearing on SCR 4021.

Senator Marcellais: (See testimony #1). I would answer any questions you may have.

Chairman Johnson: Are there any questions for Senator Marcellais?

Rep. M. Nelson: I would ask for your favorable consideration of this resolution. Many of the things that make North Dakota unique and give people a reason to come here versus go somewhere else are intimately involved with our native people. The United Tribes POW shows the potential and desire people have to see such things which speak of the history of ND. We have in Belcourt, ND every Canadian history book I have ever picked up said Louie Reel and his men fled to the US for a period of time before returning when they executed Louie, but where they fled to Belcourt, ND. The founding of Manitoba is intimately involved with our tribe in Belcourt, ND. We have the Affiliated Tribes with their very unique ways of agriculture and their tie in with their structures etc. There is just a whole host of things that are extremely interesting. People of Europe are extremely interested in our Native American culture and heritage. So I would hope that our tribes and our state would work together for the mutual benefit of both. They will come and stay in hotels and buy gasoline and at the same time I would hope that the state could work with the tribal tourism departments and such to give them some advice and help them do things in a way that tourists would find attractive. Make things in such a way so they would be favorable for bus tours. Right now we get many bus tours through the Peace Garden's, but we could hopefully have in the area another day that those bus tours could spend. If we could tie those things together there is just a huge benefit that the entire state could receive. I would hope that you would favorably consider this SCR.

Chairman Johnson: Any questions for Rep. Nelson?

Scott Davis, Executive Director, ND Indian Affairs: When I look at this bill and the importance of it I look back on how our office was instrumental in creating this alliance to tourism. I serve as a liaison appointed by our governor and the tribal chairs and of course all state agencies and tribal departments as well. We cover a lot of areas, issues and projects. Tourism is the third largest industry in North Dakota. So getting our tribes involved in the process of how state government works is another objective of my office. Not only in tourism, but in jobs, economic development, education and the list goes on and on. Tourism is definitely very important to our tribes as far as the stories that are told. The history of our tribes as you may or may not know some history has not been too favorable to our tribes in some stories have been told from a different point of view. Now some of those stories are being told in the right prospective from a tribal standpoint. This study would benefit the tribes and the state. I feel my office would be right in the middle of doing this study and I am open to that. It is an education process on both sides because I know the tribes from a tourism standpoint there is still an understanding of how bills are created and who sponsors those bills. How do you lobby etc. Everything that goes on during the session and in preparation for the session. I think with the expansion of the Heritage Center the section largest gallery will be dedicated to the first nation's people. What the tribal alliance would do is what this gallery is going to look like; what stories are going to be told, what regalia. A lot of people from throughout the world come here to see Native Americans. They want to be taken back to the traditional times. Tribes are creating that and where people can get the full experience of what it was like back then. I think this bill is a good education from both sides. The economic standpoint of creating jobs. Our reservations are at a point where unemployment is anywhere from 60-85% and I think these tourism projects will create jobs for our people. Not just in the casino sector, but outside the casinos as well. The main purpose of the casinos was for jobs only on the tribes and that is what it has done. I hope you support this bill and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Chairman Johnson: Is there much tourism activity going on before this alliance study?

Scott Davis: Each tribe has their own little small projects. You have the face of Sitting Bull; huge and you have the earth lodges up in New Town. Trail rides and the Turtle Mountains; you know how beautiful that is. The fishing etc. up in Devils Lake. There is so much potential in those areas and I think the study would look at those things. This study could come back next session and pin point what those top three or five projects could be.

Rep. Hatelstad: Does your office and the tribes you are affiliated with, do they currently work with ND Tourism office to promote the Indian culture and sites throughout the state?

Scott Davis: Yes that is correct. ND tourism heavily promotes the tribes not only locally, nationally but internationally as well. There is a partnership there. It is my job to help create funding sources for the alliance whether it is through foundations, private sector, sponsoring a bill and all those things. That is my involvement.

Rep. Shirley Meyer: Mr. Davis I appreciated your comments about the international visitors. We had a trail riding business for a time and our visitors from Germany were here with us and their first comments were could you take us to meet a real Indian. As Mr. Paul

White Owl was sitting beside me. I said to him are you real or not? They are totally fascinated with the culture and I appreciate your comments and you don't realize the interest in international visitors with the Native American culture and how much we could coordinate this for the State of North Dakota.

Scott Davis: I look at the North Hostfest in Minot and I am sure many of you have attended it and come from those blood lines. I think that is a white man's POW because a POW you are doing the same thing. You are enjoying good food, preserving your heritage through your song and language and dress and that is what we do at POWs.

Les Thomas, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa: (see handout #2). This is a little story that was in the Bismarck Tribune when you did give the resolution a pass. Scott has covered a lot here. We have partner shipped up with a lot of different entities in ND. One of our main ones is with the ND Tourism Department with Sarah Audi Coleman and Fred Walker, who is the international marketer. We first got involved with the ND Tourism Conference in Fargo about five years ago. Since that time we have been meeting with them and more visibility in their book and United Tribes POW got the recognition of the event of the year and that brings into the City of Bismarck \$5-\$6 million if I understand correctly. We are trying to put a tour together throughout all the reservations. To get to all these places as a world traveler you still have to come through the airports; small town ND so it is a win win for the whole state of ND partner shipping with the tribes. They want to see a real Indian. It is the on hands experience at the tribal level like up in Turtle Mountains we are developing a whole lake, 3,000 acre area call the Sky Chief Park so that we can have teepee's there, trail rides and some of our elders so when the world traveler comes there they experience this. We have been playing fiddles and we have partnered with the Hostfest also. Throughout the next Hostfest they are allowing us to mail with all their mailings that are going out to 300 tour companies plus the businesses they do business with this. We have been there for four years now. We have expanded every year. This last year they even had a film festival there so we have done a good job with it. I am also involved with the Turtle Mountains with the Jamestown White Buffalo Days. Here is the Legend of the White Buffalo. It is a Lakota Legend and it was said that when the white buffalo calf would start to be born a lot of things would happening throughout the world and the world would have to pull together. It happens to be a legend of an elderly woman that passed on; a white buffalo calf woman so that is the legend coming full circle. There is no other place in the world where a white buffalo had a white buffalo is in Jamestown. I hope you support this bill and do a little bit of a study and then we can go forward from there. We are still going forward with a lot of good plans. I appreciate your time this morning.

Chairman Johnson: Any questions for Mr. Thomas? Seeing none thank you.

Sarah Ide Coleman, Director of the Tourism Division for the ND Department of Commerce: I would just answer the earlier question as to our existing relationship in marketing the Native American experience here in ND. It is what our brand was built on. When you think of North Dakota Legionary it was built on the fact that we have rich history and culture and scenic beauty and authentic experiences. That encompasses this. We work very close to help sell the experience. Our new tourism development manager is working to help package and develop the experience to provide consistent opportunities for

visitors, both nationally and internationally so they can experience what they know about it. Rep. Meyer is exactly right when she says that the German's and the folks from the United Kingdom and Scandinavia are fascinated and very interested in experiencing this. I think our cooperative efforts are in place. They have excess to all our grants. A number of the tribes have exceeded our small grant programs that we have for marketing and infrastructure development. They participate in our cooperative marketing programs. We do not have the ability to earmark funds to specific groups or regions, So aside from the fact that we can't do that we do work with all the tribes and media fans, international fans and itinerary development, product development; all of those areas. So we are only limited by a budget that doesn't allow us to dedicate funding and our creativity in coming up with ideas to how to further get the word out on this rich heritage we have here in North Dakota. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Chairman Johnson: If you are already doing this, what the reason for the resolution?

Sarah Ide Coleman: I believe the idea was that initially there was a thought to put a bill in place to request funding specific for this. That came in a little bit late and so I believe Senator Marcellais felt that this was a way to start the ball rolling and maybe take a step back and take a look at what those priorities might be and study how that might benefit and then come down the road asking for some additional dedicated funds.

Les Thomas: I would like to make a couple closing statements. The purpose of this bill is to create a funding source so that the tribes could benefit from the tourism also from the state of North Dakota. Our unemployment rate is like 75% at Turtle Mountains and other areas so we would like to partnership up with the State of North Dakota to create jobs in our local economy. We want them coming here to the State Capitol because the new building is going to involve one room dedicated to every tribe so that is five rooms. There are 565 tribes throughout the US. Five of them are here in North Dakota. If they do set up this tour; like you said the world traveler comes through the airports; small town ND so it is win win for ND. They have firsthand knowledge on the local level when they come up. You can't bring a whole tribe here to Bismarck when the tourists come here, but there is so much on the local levels. There are POW's going on throughout the summer. We also at the Turtle Mountains have the only horse races now throughout the state of ND throughout the month of June. Apparently Fargo still hasn't recertified their problem so all this tourism that comes here is good for the state. Are there any other questions? Scott Davis has been very helpful with Indian Country.

Opposition: None

Hearing closed.

Do Pass Motion Made by Rep.Devlin: Seconded by Rep. Hatelstad:

Vote: 11 Yes 0 No 3 Absent Carrier: Rep.Devlin:

To be placed on the Consent Calendar.

Date: 3-17-11
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 4021

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. Devlin Seconded By Rep. Hatelstad

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) 11 No 0

Absent 3

Floor Assignment Rep. Devlin

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

Consent Calendar

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SCR 4021: Political Subdivisions Committee (Rep. N. Johnson, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** and **BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR**
(11 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 3 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SCR 4021 was placed on the
Tenth order on the calendar.

2011 TESTIMONY

SCR 4021



NORTH DAKOTA SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Senator Richard Marcellais
District 9
RR 1, Box 267A
Belcourt, ND 58316-9787
marcellais@nd.gov

COMMITTEES:

Education
Government and Veterans Affairs

Testimony
Senate Concurrent Resolution 4021
Industry, Business, & Labor Committee
Senator Klein, Chairman
February 16, 2011

Chairman Klein, members of the Industry, Business & Labor Committee, for the record my name is Richard Marcellais, Senator from District 9, of Belcourt I am here today to provide you with testimony in support of Senate concurrent Resolution 4021.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 4021 is a request to conduct a Legislative Management study to develop a strategic partnership between the State Tourism Division and the North Dakota intertribal tourism alliance. In early 2011 the five federally recognized Indian tribes within North Dakota organized an intertribal tourism alliance. Each tribe within North Dakota has a tourism department or equivalent agency or function that seeks to draw visitors to various attractions and activities that occur within the Indian reservation of the state. This partnership would lead to an increased economic development in rural areas in North Dakota as well as for the Indian Nations themselves.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to appear in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 4021. If there are any questions I will try and answer them.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4021

**A SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY
AND DESIRABILITY OF DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC
PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE STATE TOURISM DIVISION AND
CORRESPONDING TOURISM DEPARTMENTS OR ALLIANCES
OF TOURISM DEPARTMENTS OF THE INDIAN THE INDIAN
TRIBES WITHIN NORTH DAKOTA.**

**SENATE BUSINESS & LABOR COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 16, 2011**

**Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation Tourism Department
Randy Phelan, Director
Fort Berthold Indian Reservation**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, my name is Randy Phelan, and I am honored to present this testimony as Director of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Tourism Department. I am supportive of SCR 4021 because it calls for a study to determine the feasibility of developing a strategic partnership with the State Tourism Department.

I firmly believe that a potential and strategic partnership with the State Tourism Department could substantially boost tourism and economic development on our Reservation and within the State of North Dakota. Mutual investment and marketing could lead to a dramatic increase of visitors and revenue to our area.

It is widely recognized and understood that tribal history and culture plays a significant role in the image of the State's attraction to tourists throughout the United States and the world in general. Furthermore, our tribal nation and the State of North Dakota have a very positive and productive history of cooperation that has

demonstrated great success. As a recent example, the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation and the State of North Dakota, in joint effort, developed a very profound and effective tourist event during the Lewis and Clark Bi-Centennial Celebration. We have also previously assisted the State of North Dakota Tourism for other events and efforts such as the United States Bi-Centennial and the Scenic By-Ways program.

Our tribal nation is a member of the North Dakota Tribal Tourism Alliance, where I serve as the Vice-Chairman of this promising association. The unified strength of this organization, along with the efforts of individual tribal tourist departments and the North Dakota State Tourism Division, will present increased opportunity for activity and economic development, which will mutually benefit all.

On behalf of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation, I strongly support SCR 4021 which directs Legislative Management to study the feasibility and desirability of developing a strategic partnership with the State of North Dakota.

**TRIBAL COUNCIL
(AT LARGE)**

es "Taken Alive

Margaret M. Gates

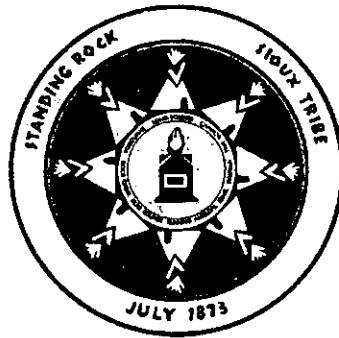
Avis Little Eagle

Dave Archambault II

Joseph McNeil Jr.

Jesse McLaughlin

Charles W. Murphy
Chairman



Mike Faith
Vice Chairman

Adele M. White
Secretary

**TRIBAL COUNCIL
(DISTRICTS)**

Sharon Two Bears
Cannonball District

Henry Harrison
Long Soldier District

Duane Claymore
Wakpala District

Kerby St. John
Kenel District

Errol D. Crow Ghost
Bear Soldier District

Milton Brown Otter
Rock Creek District

Frank Jamerson Jr.
Running Antelope District

Samuel B. Harrison
Porcupine District

February 15, 2011

TESTIMONY ON SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4012

SCR 4021

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to study the feasibility and desirability of developing a strategic partnership between the State Tourism Division and corresponding tourism departments or alliances of tourism departments of the Indian tribes within North Dakota promoting tourism in North Dakota.

Sponsor: Sen. Marcellais, Triplett, Heckaman

Sponsor: Rep. Onstad, Nelson

Referred to Industry, Business and Labor Committee

**Charles W. Murphy, Chairman
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
And
LaDonna Allard
Director of Tribal Tourism**

Madam Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am honored to present this written testimony as the Chairman Charles W. Murphy on behalf of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and the Director LaDonna Brave Bull Allard of Standing Rock Tribal Tourism Office.

The new North Dakota Native Tourism Alliance (NDNTA) was formed in January of this year 2011 of the six Tribal Nations of North Dakota, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Turtle Mountain Band Of Chippewa, Three Affiliated Tribes, Spirit Lake, Sisseton/Wahpeton Sioux Tribe and Trenton Service Area that resided within the North Dakota borders. The Alliance was formed to help with each other with developing cross-marketing, developing step-on-guide training, providing hospitality training, cross-reservation tours, educating tourist on the tribal history and culture.

The Senate concurrent Resolution NO. 4021 is to support the Tribal Nations and North Dakota Tourism with Strategic Feasibility Study to increase tourism for North Dakota. We believe in order to be economically sustainably we need to have a strategic plan for our future and a feasibility study to develop partnerships with the North Dakota State Tourism office and other State agencies to increase the tourism in North Dakota. In order to be sustainably we need to develop partnerships and a working relationship with North Dakota Tourism, North Dakota Indian Affairs Office and the North Dakota State Legislature. We believe that the cross-marketing with the North Dakota State Tourism and North Dakota Tribal Natives will boost tourism in North Dakota. Tourism in North Dakota benefits all North Dakotan and all those who visit our great state.

Each of the tribal nations has had some form of tourism development in the communities and has been welcoming guest into North Dakota for years. The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe has been doing historic tour since 1997, The Three Affiliated (MHA) have been doing historic tours with their earth lodges since 2003 with the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa have been promote culture and history with their Museum since early 1990s, and Sisseton/Wahpeton Sioux Tribe has been doing tourism since 2006. The Trenton Service Area and Spirit Lake will be

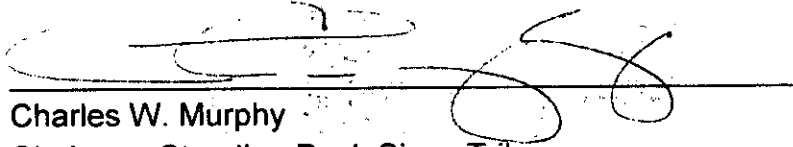
developed tours of their historic area. The tribal nations have art, history, culture, song, dance and stories to offer the visitors that come from different counties and United States. We will tell the stories of Sitting Bull, Gall, Little Big Horn, Four Bears, Lewis and Clark, Little Shell, Charger, Red Thunder, the Metis people, Fur Trade and the stories of the land through our eyes to the visitors.

The following reservations have casinos, Spirit Lake, Turtle Mountain, Standing Rock, Sisseton/Wahpeton and Three Affiliated (MHA) which have visitors from all over the world. Sharing our tribal history with the visitors who come to North Dakota will benefit North Dakota as a whole.

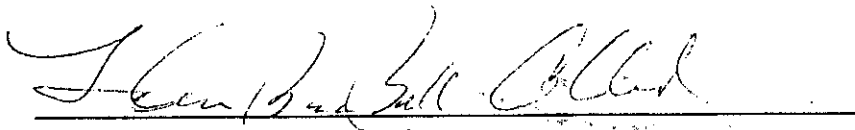
Please accept my apologies for not being able to give testimony in person I will be meeting with Standing Rock area artist to talk about promote native art at the same time as the Legislative Hearing.

We are asking the State Legislative Assembly to support this bill Senate Concurrent Resolution NO. 4021 for Strategic Feasibility study with North Dakota and North Dakota Tribal Nations to develop this partnership and alliance for the future of North Dakota.

Sincerely,



Charles W. Murphy
Chairman Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Office#: 701-854-7201
Email: cmurphy@standingrock.org
Website: <http://standingrock.org>



LaDonna Brave Bull Allard
President of North Dakota Native Tourism Alliance
Director of Tribal Tourism Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Office#: 701-854-3698
Email: Lallard@standingrock.org or ladonnabrave1@aol.com
Website: <http://www.standingrocktourism.com>

Testimony
Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4021
February 16, 2011 10:0 a.m. Fort Lincoln Room

Senator Marcellais, Heckaman, Triplett and Representatives M. Nelson and Onstad, members of Industry, Business, and Labor committee my name is Leah McCloud, Tourism Director for the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, Belcourt, ND. I am here today to provide you with testimony on Senate concurrent resolution no. 4021 relating to the feasibility study and desirability of developing a strategic partnership between the State Tourism Division and corresponding tourism departments or alliances of tourism departments of the Indian tribes within ND promoting tourism in ND.

Last summer due to the Pathways to Prosperity investment, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa tribe was able to enhance the tourism industry by: Developing new amenities and renovating old ones. Pathways to Prosperity along with the tourism committee drafted a master tourism plan and guide to enhance tourism on the Turtle Mountain Indian reservation.

We have since renovated and enhanced projects including: Diamonds in the Sky Softball Complex, St. John ATV Park, Anishinabe Learning, Cultural and Wellness Center/Trading Post, Chippewa Downs horseracing track, Veteran's Memorial Park, Little Shell Pow-wow arbor and grounds, & beautification of St. Ann's Mission.

Newly Constructed Projects: Sky dancer roping arena, Ogemaa Giizhiig (Gordan Lake, park and recreation)

Projects coming soon: Plans to build a new Heritage Center, Sky dancer RV Park, and Center of the Earth learning center (also to be used for Traditional Funerals and Services)

Over the past year, tourism has made an impact on the economy of Belcourt. Because of the renovations and building of new amenities, the project stakeholders were able to offer full-time employment for six months.

We have many resources and products available in our area for tourists to enjoy such as: Hospitality, Rich History and Culture, Music, Scenery, Recreation, Arts/Crafts, Antiques, Horse Park, Casino, Botanical Garden, Dried Food Products, Caterers, Genealogy, Wildlife, Folk Products, Gift Shops, and Special Events including: Turtle Mountain Days, St. Ann's Novena, Dunseith Days, St. John Days, etc.

Attached is an overview of the many attractions and events Turtle Mountains has to offer taken from our 2009 Master Tourism Plan. This is what the Turtle Mountains has to offer to the native alliances of the ND tribes. You can see from our many resources and assets that we along with the other tribes that we have a lot to offer a partnership with ND's Tourism Industries.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope that we can work together in partnership towards a brighter tourism future for the State of North Dakota.

Gratefully yours,

Leah McCloud
TMBCI Tourism Director

Taken from the Pathways to Prosperity's Master Tourism Plan 2009

OUR CURRENT INVENTORY OF TOURISM ASSETS INCLUDE:

Anishanabe Learning, Cultural and Wellness Center/Trading Post

This center sits on about 40 acres and offers a unique environment to a continuum of related topics such as native plants, agricultural related disciplines, and Anishinabe tribal culture. The center has several log cabins, straw bale research center, cultural round house, medicine wheel garden, experimental demonstration site, horse trails, hoop house, medicinal plots and education/extension addition for teaching or pleasure. The Trading Post offers for traditional native arts and crafts, coffee shop items, apparel, and cyber café amenities.

Turtle Mountain Community College (TMCC)

TMCC was founded in 1972. The College focuses on general studies, undergraduate education, career and technical education, and scholarly research in which the cultural and social heritage of the TMBCI is brought to bear throughout the curriculum. Located on the northeast shore of beautiful Belcourt Lake, the College displays a huge selection of native art.

St. Ann's Mission

St. Ann's Mission was founded in the 1885. The Catholic Mission is an excellent resource on genealogy for the early inhabitants of the Reservation. The Mission is rich in cultural materials and has recently re-opened its Catholic elementary school.

Queen of Peace Bed and Breakfast (QOP)

QOP was previously the home for the nuns of St. Ann's Mission. The rectory has been converted to an overnight accommodation site in recent years. QOP is another resource site on community history and lore.

Sky Dancer Hotel, Casino and Resort

The casino offers a full line of gaming activities including slots, bingo, card games and pull-tabs. Dining facilities include a full buffet line and steak pit plus pizza/snack bar. The hotel has 96 rooms and several meeting areas. There is a pool and arcade for children, along with RV parking.

Belcourt Lake (aka Fish Lake)

The picturesque lake located 3 miles north of Belcourt covers an area roughly 1 x 2 miles and offers excellent fishing and boating opportunities. Camping facilities are quite primitive.

Ogemaa Giizhiig (Gordan Lake, park and recreation)

Ogemaa Giizhiig is made up of three smaller bodies of water named: Gordon, Wheaton & Jarvis Lakes. It is located within 10 miles northwest of Belcourt, these lakes offer fine fishing opportunities and camping facilities.

Wheel Turtle

This welded monument is made of used car wheels and offers tourist information and a gift shop and is located in Dunseith on ND Hwy 281.

International Peace Gardens

This beautiful 2,339 acre botanical garden showcases 150,000 flowers and is visited by upwards of 200,000 travelers each year. The Gardens offer camping, hiking, tour groups, event centers, snack bar and gift shop. It is host to the International Music Festival each year and sponsors a music camp for youth.

Shepard's Hill at the Crossroads (aka Crossroads Range)

This retreat hosts a number of events throughout the year, a goodly amount being of Christian orientation.

Butte St. Paul

This landmark is located northwest of Dunseith and is the highest butte on the Turtle Mountain foothills and commemorates the snow storm survival of a group of travelers headed by Father Belcourt in 1850.

Lords Lake National Wildlife Refuge

This refuge is located west of Dunseith, the Refuge is within a major flyway for ducks and geese in the fall of each year. Surrounded by miles and miles of agricultural land, the Refuge is a prime waterfowl hunting spot.

Carpenter, Hooker, Gravel & Upsilon Lakes

These lakes are located along the Turtle Mountain Scenic Byway, these small to medium size lakes offer fishing, water sports and primitive camping. All are located in prime hiking areas.

Lion's Park

This park is located on the northeast shore of Lake Upsilon, this area offers picnic/ barbeque facilities, fishing, swimming and camping.

Wakapa Wildlife Management Area

This virtually untouched wilderness area is located west of St. John and extends northward into Manitoba, Canada. Its small trails offer excellent wildlife observation opportunities both by automobile or hiking.

Turtle Mountain Buffalo Park

Located 2 miles west of Belcourt, the park is home to approximately 30 – 40 animals year round. The buffalo herd symbolizes the limited resources available to the area's early settlers forced here by treaty settlements.

Garden Gate Golf Course

Located just north of Dunseith on Hwy 281, this 9 hole grass green golf course offers a challenging opportunity to even the most seasoned golfer with its water and tree hazards. The clubhouse provides beverages and snacks. Carts are available for rent.

Turtle Mountain Heritage Center

Situated in Belcourt, the Center offers a cultural snapshot of the area's population with its history lessons, artwork and gift shop.

Chippewa Downs

On a hill just to the southwest of Belcourt, this racehorse track offers para-mutual betting on 2-3 weekend in the summer. The park has grandstands and concession stands as well as a number of barns for the horses (quarter horse and thorough bred).

Rolette County Recreational Center

This indoor facility houses rodeos, bull-riding and horseshows throughout the year.

Martineau House

This historic home offers information about the scenic byway and area attractions as well as displays on the area's early days.

Rolette County Historical Society Museum

On the museum grounds are two large display buildings, one room school house, church, hunter's shack, Dana Wright Cabin, doll house, gas station, immigration building, blacksmith's shop and Burlington Northern Railroad cars.

Hwy 43 Scenic Byway

Starting at the International Peace Gardens, the Byway offers a panoramic view of the Turtle Mountains with its trees, lakes, hills and meadows. The drive follows Hwy 43 through St. John onto five corners where a recently completed metal buffalo/turtle sculpture has been placed.

Rolla Country Club

Located roughly 6 miles northwest of Rolla, this course offers nine grass greens, driving range and clubhouse. Due to the large number of trees off just about every fairway and hilly nature, the course can be quite challenging for just about any golfer. Cart rentals ease the travel of the course.

Turtle Mountain Tribal Arts Association Art Gallery

The gallery will provide a showcase for the area's native artists and provide a resource center for art and craft supplies. Internet marketing activities are soon to be launched from the site. Local artists will be on hand to discuss their artwork as it develops. The Gallery is located on Hwy 281 on the north end of Dunseith.

Lake Metigoshe State Park

This area is the premier lakes area for the state and offers fishing, camping, water sports, fine dining, golf, gift shops and rentals.

Bottineau Winter Park Ski Area

The winter park offers a ski slope and sledding fun for the whole family.

Restaurants and Places to Dine

The Backwoods, Chicken Hut, China Inn Restaurant, Dairy Queen-Rolla, Dairy Queen-Bottineau, Dale's Café, Diamond Willow Dining, Herbel's Dario Drive-In, Hot Stuff Pizza & Smash Hit Subs, N 8's Café, North 40 Restaurant, Norway House Restaurant, Prairie Lanes, Reid's Place, Rolette Café, Rolette Drive-In, Sheen Wah Chinese Restaurant, Subway-Rolla, Subway-Bottineau, Village Inn, Utter Stop, Taco John's, Sky Dancer Restaurant, D&B Pizza, Cenex Food Court, Denny's Pizza, Hot Stuff Pizzeria, Pizza Place, Tommy Turtle Café, BilMar Grill, and Birchwood,

Overnight Accommodations

Norway House Motel, Rolette Motel LLP, Sky Dancer Hotel, Gordan Lake (Ogemaa Gizhiig) Park and Recreation, Super 8, Dale's Motel, Queen of Peace Bed and Breakfast, BilMar, Loveland Lodge, and Quilt Inn

Events and Festivals

Turtle Mountain Days, St. Ann's Novena, St. John's Days, Dunseith Days and Little Shell Pow-wow, Chippewa Downs Racing Meet, Turtle Mountain Metis Jamboree, Turtle Mountain Roping Association, and St. John ATV Park.



Senator Richard Marcellais
District 9
RR 1, Box 267A
Belcourt, ND 58316-9787
rmarcellais@nd.gov

NORTH DAKOTA SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



COMMITTEES:

Education
Government and Veterans Affairs

Testimony
Senate Concurrent Resolution 4021
House Political Subdivisions
Representative Johnson, Chairwoman
March 17, 2011

Chairwoman Johnson, members of the House Political Subdivision Committee, for the record my name is Richard Marcellais, Senator from District 9, of Belcourt I am here today to provide you with testimony in support of Senate concurrent Resolution 4021.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 4021 is a request to conduct a Legislative Management study to develop a strategic partnership between the State Tourism Division and the North Dakota intertribal tourism alliance.

In early 2011 the five federally recognized Indian tribes within North Dakota organized an intertribal tourism alliance. Each tribe within North Dakota has a tourism department or equivalent agency or function that seeks to draw visitors to various attractions (Art Facts Centers) and activities (Pow Wow's) that occur within the Indian reservation of the state. This partnership would lead to an increased economic development in rural areas in North Dakota as well as for the Indian Nations themselves.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to appear in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 4021. If there are any questions I will try and answer them.

travel and financial interests."

Tribes want to work with state on tourism

Reprinted from Bismarck Tribune

Tribes across the state of North Dakota are working together to expand tourism on reservations, but now some within the Native American community are asking the Legislature to study that facet of tourism and how they can better work with the state.

Les Thomas, vice chairman of the Turtle Mountain Tourism Association, said the ultimate hope is to create a tour that runs through all five tribes' reservations to see the attractions at each.

"It's a win-win for the tribes and the state of North Dakota," Thomas said, because travelers will go through airports and small towns on their way to reservations.

Thomas said he thinks the tour would appeal to world travelers with an interest in Native culture. Potential stops could include the earth lodge village in New Town and the Sky Chief Park on the Turtle Mountain Reservation, which now has teepees and tribal members on hand to give demonstrations.

"It would give travelers an opportunity to intermingle with Natives in that setting," Thomas said.

He also sees the Heritage Center expansion, which is set to include a display room on tribal exhibits, as another attraction which might spur interest in the reservations, something Thomas said they hope to capitalize on with brochures and

maps to be placed there.

The ultimate goal, Thomas said, is to get some type of state fundraising for these ventures. Still he understands general fund dollars are hard to come by and hopes the study will show a stronger tourism alliance between the state and the tribes is something worth investing in.

At a Wednesday hearing on the bill before the Senate Industry Business and Labor Committee, members of other tribes came out to support the study.

"This could substantially boost tourism," said Randy Phelan, director of the Tourism Department for the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara tribes.

"Tribal history and culture already plays a role in the state's tourism appeal," he said, referring to the Lewis and Clark Trail.

Chase Iron Eyes with the Standing Rock Sioux tribe said the study would bring in some needed data.

"We're already working together, we're just not quantifying it," he said.

Sara Otte Coleman, North Dakota's tourism director, said tourism in Indian Country is already a huge part of their strategy, but she doesn't see the harm in a study.

"We can see if we can make any connections or see if there are any synergies we can gather," Otte Coleman said.

The committee gave the bill a "do pass" recommendation.



WE'RE THE TIRE SPECIALISTS ALWAYS!
REASONABLE PRICES!
North Central Tires
Phone 477-6363-Rolla