

Testimony for the
House Government & Veterans Affairs Committee
SB 2063

Andrew Alexis Varvel

March 11, 2021

Chairman Kasper and Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrew Alexis Varvel. I live in Bismarck.

Please give SB 2063 a DO PASS recommendation.

This amendment would provide the State Historical Society of North Dakota with greater flexibility to manage its collections on behalf of the people of North Dakota.

The Nickel Trophy should be exhibited periodically as part of a contextualized display. It could be part of an exhibit about our state's history of higher education, our state's sports history, or a history of depictions of indigenous peoples in popular culture.

One problem with mandating a permanent display of the Nickel Trophy is that it may decontextualize its historical significance. It would be rather like the difference between exhibiting a Triceratops skull all by itself and exhibiting a Triceratops skull within a context that tells a greater story about North Dakota's Hell Creek Formation's ecology that would include flora and fauna from the Upper Cretaceous Period.

So, to help the State Historical Society better curate the Nickel Trophy and build better displays to explain historical context, please recommend a DO PASS for Senate Bill 2063.

Thank you.

Andrew Alexis Varvel
2630 Commons Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58503
701-255-6639
mr.a.alexis.varvel@gmail.com

Postscript:

One of the joys of the Nickel Trophy in UND and NDSU tradition has been the opportunity it has provided for rival students to steal the trophy. So, unless the State Historical Society of North Dakota would like this artifact to go missing, it would be prudent for it to refrain from loaning out the Nickel Trophy, instead keeping it in a neutral location under lock and key.