



In Favor of SCR 4002

House Agriculture

March 7, 2025

Chairman Beltz and Committee members:

For the record, my name is Drew Courtney. I farm in Oakes and serve as a board member for the North Dakota Corn Growers Association. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 4002.

As farmers, we care deeply about the stewardship of our land and natural resources. In fact, the National Corn Growers Association reports that between 1980 and 2015, our nation's corn farmers decreased the land required to produce a bushel of corn by 41 percent; reduced soil loss per acre by 58 percent; and reduced per bushel irrigation water usage by 46 percent. We support agricultural research and voluntary conservation programs, not burdensome regulations and punitive enforcement by the federal government.

Permanent easements do not accommodate changes in the land itself, advances in ecological science, or changing circumstances in the landowner's life. They infringe on our private property rights and limit the options available to future generations.

We urge a "Do Pass" recommendation on SCR 4002. Thank you for your consideration, and I will stand for questions.