

January 23, 2025

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Chairman Patton and Committee Members,

My name is Tim Mathern, Senator from District 11 in Fargo. I am the prime sponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 4004.

This resolution is to encourage and promote "North Dakota Dark Sky Week," in April in conjunction with International Dark Sky Week. It is an annual event that takes place during the week of the new moon in April which is when the night skies are the darkest. Taking part urges the residents of North Dakota to observe, ponder, and support the natural dark sky resources of this state.

I introduced this measure for three main reasons.

1. To help educate citizens about light pollution dangerous to birds and plants,
2. To consider other ways to save energy, and
3. To encourage all political subdivisions to enact ordinances that reduce light pollution and building designs that kill birds.

The words of the resolution itself give us the rationale for holding this matter up and for declaring a week in April as North Dakota Dark Sky Week. Sometimes our role as senators goes beyond passing laws, our role can be used to provide education regarding important ways to work with others around the world to preserve our earth and her inhabitants.

I ask you for a Do Pass recommendation on SCR 4004.

Thank you for your service to our state.