HCR 3003

Senate State & Local Government Committee – Sen. Kristin Roers, Chair April 4, 2025 – Testimony in Opposition

Chair Roers and Members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to present information in opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 3003. I am Vicki Voldal Rosenau, a concerned lover of liberty and lifelong resident of Valley City, ND. I strongly oppose this proposal for four powerful reasons:

- 1. In the eyes of many ND citizens, this Legislature's super-majority has arrogantly pursued numerous power grabs. Promotion of this resolution is a strong example of legislative actions that justify that sentiment. In fact, this attempted power grab is even-worse than many others because it disdainfully seeks to impose a standard of voting without even holding the proposed scheme to the SAME standard. That's pretty alarming.
- 2. This proposal thumbs its nose at the clearly articulated wishes of the voters, including the majority that defeated this same stratagem just a couple of years ago! There is ample proof that your constituents oppose this and any other attempt to tamper with citizens' Article III Constitutional right to directly amend that Constitution. Others' testimony details the NUMEROUS votes by which the majority of North Dakotans have clearly stated: Do not make it more difficult for citizen-initiated measures to be adopted.
- 3. Sustaining a democracy literally depends on robust citizen participation. By making the process of citizens' direct participation HARDER, this proposition <u>would curtail direct</u> <u>democracy in North Dakota</u> and curb citizen participation in the governance of our state. That is the direct opposite of what the United States of America needs right now.
- 4. There is no scrupulously-documented "need" for this proposed, costly usurping of local citizens' rights. North Dakota's widely-cherished process for citizen-initiated measures and referenda has been working effectively for many, many decades. There is no credible evidence of misuse or malfunction of any kind.

In the interest of true government by the people, please vote a unanimous "Do NOT Pass" recommendation on HCR 3003

Thank you for your consideration, Vicki Voldal Rosenau, Valley City, ND