

Senate Workforce Development Committee

House Concurrent Resolution 3019

Andrew Alexis Varvel

Fort Lincoln Room

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Chairman Wobbema,
Madame Vice Chairman Axtman
and Members of the Committee:

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

Please say **NO** to House Concurrent Resolution 3019.

Although I would not normally speak on a resolution such as this one, I have some important points to make.

House Concurrent Resolution 3019 is an expression of joy which celebrates the strength of Donald Trump's victory in North Dakota.

This is understandable. Donald Trump has struck a chord among American voters, and has greatly influenced our politics and culture.

Yet, let's look at House Concurrent Resolution 3019 in another way.

Please consider that Leonard Peltier is now back in Belcourt.

Let's imagine, for the sake of argument, if the North Dakota Legislature were to pass a resolution congratulating Leonard Peltier for getting out of prison and welcoming him home to North Dakota.

This would be hard to imagine, wouldn't it?

After all, Leonard Peltier is a convicted felon accused of murder and a controversial figure who is both beloved by his supporters and hated by his enemies. Sending a letter of congratulations to Leonard Peltier would promote feelings of joy among his ardent supporters. It would also be divisive, and serve no good purpose.

The essential difference between Trump and Peltier is power.

This resolution speaks to who has power, and who does not.

This resolution is like spiking the football in the end zone.

On lines 13-14, HCR 3019 refers to the following:

“...strengthening the United States through sound governance, a robust economy, and the promotion of unity among the citizens...”

I would not equate Elon Musk's rampage through federal institutions with “sound governance.” I would not equate reckless tariffs against Canada which threaten the existence of our auto industry with “a robust economy.” Yet, I will say that Donald Trump has been wonderful for promoting unity – among Canadians, that is.

Donald Trump is becoming widely hated north of the border.

And I mean ***hated***.

Look at line 20. No president with a “steadfast adherence to the founding principles of our nation” would ever call himself a king.

Not on **Truth Social**. Not anywhere.

At the Constitutional Convention of 1787, the idea of elective monarchy was considered. And rejected as a founding principle.

In less than two months since his inauguration, President Trump has instituted the most radical administration in generations, promoted chaos in our civil service, and uprooted key functions such as food safety, disease prevention, firefighting, and feeding the hungry.

If you want to send a message to Canadians that you endorse President Trump's tariffs as a way to coercively annex Canada, then passing this resolution would be a great way to do it. Canadians are in a bad mood right now, so don't be surprised if the Canadian government interprets this resolution to be an open invitation to target North Dakota products with retaliatory economic sanctions.

If you, in your heart of hearts, want to endorse everything that President Trump has accomplished so far, then voting for this resolution would make a lot of sense. But don't imagine that passing this resolution will promote unity among American citizens.

I can assure you – it won't.

So, please give HCR 3019 a **DO NOT PASS** recommendation.

Thank you. I am open for questions from the committee.