

Brock Pierce  
Chairman- Bitcoin Foundation  
brock@percival.vc

FB 1268

Good Afternoon North Dakota, I am both excited and grateful to be here with you.

I am Brock Pierce, from Minneapolis, Minnesota, born and raised. My mother was a minister and father worked in construction. I began my career early as a child-actor, making movies like The Mighty Ducks and First Kid. At 16, I believed the internet would change the world and that inspired me to become an entrepreneur.

I have co-founded, advised, and funded over 100 companies. In 2014 I put the U.S. dollar on the Blockchain when I co-founded Tether. Tether is the #1 most traded cryptocurrency with an annual trading volume of over \$10 Trillion.

As a technologist and innovator, I have created the first major marketplace for virtual goods in online gaming, which is expected to grow to \$190B by 2025. As a pioneer in Blockchain and digital currency, I was integral to the development of the first Initial Coin Offerings (ICO), providing a revolutionary way to fund and launch digital currencies. Additionally, as a founder of Blockchain Capital, I helped develop the STO, security token offering, to further secure investments in digital currency. Blockchain-based and digital currencies that I have co-founded include EOS, Stablecoin and Tether, the latter of which surpassed Bitcoin with a daily trading volume of over \$21 billion. My revolutionizing innovations in Blockchain technology and online gaming have led to the development of entirely new industries, resulting in the creation of new jobs, marketplaces and wealth for millions of Americans.

For the past five years, I have been Chairman of the Bitcoin Foundation - the largest and oldest digital asset education center in the world. On behalf of the foundation, I have been traveling the world for many years speaking on the transformative value blockchain technology.

It's Imperative that we recognize that the \$800,000 fiscal note is minuscule in comparisons to the benefits North Dakotans can obtain, both, in the short and long term.

I strongly believe that North Dakotans participating in the development & expansion of the blockchain industry which Wyoming has begun will build thousands of high paying jobs and generate tens of millions if not billions of dollars for the State of North Dakota. Which is why I am here to testify IN FAVOR of passing HB 1268.

First, From a national and global macroeconomic perspective, China is leading the world in digital asset engineering across many industries and the USA is falling behind. What is imperative is that individual states lead the effort. I strongly believe that North Dakota must be one of the states to both, ensure and sustain America's economic and technological preeminence.

Secondly, The Energy Sector is undergoing rapid changes to accommodate the increasing volume of consumption here in America and across the world. There is not place better to incorporate a fintech sandbox than the largest oil and gas reserves in USA. The merger of tech innovation and industry will enable America to be a steadfast leader in the digital age for decades to come.

The Blockchain technical corridor is already building and it is imperative that we join neighboring states in leading this effort. As someone who has amassed billions in capitol and created many businesses around the world, I can testify that an \$800,000 cost to the state may is nothing in comparison to the gains attained in relatively short time.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you, it's been a tremendous pleasure.

HCR 3024

Bitcoin has proven to be the top performing asset of the last decade and the best of 2020. Bitcoin has a market capitalization of 600B+ that places it in the list of top 10 of countries If it were its own country.

A tremendous number of large-scale companies are moving into the digital asset and cryptocurrency space - PayPal, JP Morgan, Starbucks. Through consortiums and the assistance of top tier corporate strategy consulting firms, such as the Boston Consulting Group, well-established FDIC-based banks are implementing blockchain technology.

I am in favor of HCR 3024 In support for a resolution studying special purpose depository institutions for cryptocurrency to encourage competition and financial innovation, controlling the risks and preventing them from affecting the end consumer. Fintech startups make progress in their processes, complying little by little with all regulations, until they finally reach the end of the road and transition out of this testing environment to compete with regular financial institutions, now without a safety net.

This resolution will enable the development of an appropriate sandbox, a mechanism for developing regulation that keeps up with the fast pace of innovation in a way that does not smother the fintech sector with rules, but also doesn't diminish consumer protection, for the State of North Dakota.

Sincerely,

Brock Pierce