

Testimony HCR 3028

Scott Skokos
Executive Director
Dakota Resource Council
1720 Burnt Boat Dr. Ste 104
Bismarck ND 58503
Testimony in Support for HCR 3028

Chairman Porter and members of the committee my name is Scott Skokos and I serve as the Executive Director of Dakota Resource Council (DRC), a statewide family farm and conservation organization. This resolution is supported by our tribally led affiliate, Fort Berthold Protectors of Water and Earth Rights (POWER), which is why I am here today to show support for HCR 3028.

DRC supports HCR 3028 because it seeks to study the impacts of oil related activities and accidental or intentional environmental damage that has occurred along state highways 22, 23, and 37. The boundaries of Fort Berthold pose a gray area for jurisdiction when an incident occurs, and to prevent bad actors from exploiting this gray area we need to study to show if collaboration between Fort Berthold and North Dakota is needed to prevent bad actors from exploiting the gray nature of the areas adjacent to the boundaries of Fort Berthold.

A study of this manner will give North Dakota and Fort Berthold a clear view of what environmental impacts have occurred along the boundaries of Fort Berthold. By having a clear view of the impacts of oil related activities along the reservation boundaries will give the state and Fort Berthold more clarity on how they can work together to mitigate any impacts present and to put in place safeguards to prevent future impacts. For these reasons we urge a Do Pass recommendation for HCR 3028. I can stand for any questions.