



**North Dakota Grain Growers Association
Testimony in Support of SCR 4017
House Energy and Natural Resources
Committee
March 16, 2023**

Chairman Porter, members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, for the record my name is Ed Kessel; I own and operate a family farm in the Belfield, North Dakota area. I am also President of the North Dakota Grain Growers Association (NDGGA). I appear here today in both capacities in support of HCR 4017.

HCR 4017 speaks to EPA's regulatory over-reach and the negative impacts that over-reach has on North Dakota agriculture. EPA's regulatory efforts regarding the Endangered Species Act and WOTUS continue to impose federal control over issues best left to state and local control. Shackling North Dakota agriculture with federal over-reach negatively impacts the way farmer's feed the world, fetters state and local control and ultimately negatively impacts the North Dakota economy and the state's budget.

HCR 4017 also speaks to the "wink and nod" EPA strategy whereby the agency and agricultural detractors get together to agree to "sue and settle" lawsuits which leads to detrimental consequences for both the agriculture and energy industries in this nation.

In 2023 NDGGA will conduct its 29th NDGGA E-Tour which brings EPA personnel from EPA Washington D.C. and EPA Region 8 to observe first-hand North Dakota's environmental stewardship. NDGGA has found that by doing that it fosters a better understanding and relationship between North Dakota and EPA. HCR 4017 sends another clear message that North Dakota doesn't need regulatory over-reach to achieve the desired environmental goals that protects our citizens.

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Therefore the North Dakota Grain Growers Association would respectfully request that the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee give HB 4017 a Do Pass recommendation and request that the full House concur.