

March 2, 2023

2023 House Political Subdivisions Committee

Chairman Longmuir and members of the Committee,

My name is Tim Mathern. I am a senator from Fargo. I know your expansive work is crucial for our state. I hope the Resolution before you today will be one of the more positive experiences in your career in the House.

I introduced Senate Concurrent Resolution 4002 for three reasons;

1. To honor our talented citizen Denise Lajimodiere (Laasch moe dear) as the Poet Laureate of North Dakota. (She was planning to be here but the storm made it impossible)
2. To have the legislature, as the broad voice of the general citizenry, weigh in on the poet laureate process, and
3. To bring reverence and attention to our Indigenous community.

SCR 4002 by way of the WHEREAS paragraphs on pages 1 and 2, lists the many accomplishments of Dr. Denise Lajimodiere.....(review resolution)

(Not sure if others can attend today but did so in the Senate)

Kim Konikow, the Executive Director of the North Dakota Council on the Arts, is here to explain why having a Poet Laureate is important.

The legislature may consider another bill dealing with the Poet Laureate designation term length. I have discussed this matter with this nominee and we are in agreement that a term limit to the Poet Laureate designation is acceptable if the other bill were to pass to do that.

I ask for a DO PASS recommendation on SCR4002.

Thank you.

Senator Tim Mathern