

SCR 4010-In Favor

Chairman Longmuir, and members of the committee, thank you for taking up this piece of legislation. My name is Hunter Heck. I am from Cavalier and currently enrolled at Valley City State University going into History Education.

This resolution came to my mind back in January after looking at the official symbols of each U.S state and noticed that nine states currently have a “state firearm.” The purpose of these it appears would be due to historical significance. For example, Utah’s official state firearm is the Colt 1911, which was designed by a famous resident of that state, John Browning.

Then I quickly noticed that our state was not on that list and thought to myself, “what firearm could be significant to North Dakota?” After doing some research, I found the Winchester Model 1876 as it was used by President Theodore Roosevelt when he lived out in the Badlands starting in 1884. He had a love of firearms but was especially fond of the Winchester brand and had several of their rifles. Yet, he did in fact take the ’76 out in the Badlands, according to the National Park Service, where there is a photo of him holding the rifle. After seeing this, I knew that this had to be our official state firearm.

The purpose of this is simple, historical significance to perhaps our most famous resident. After all, we have Roosevelt on everything all over the state and soon he will finally have a Presidential Library out by Medora. I believe that Teddy wouldn’t mind the ’76 being symbolized.

I highly urge this committee, and the House, the pass this resolution.

Sincerely, Hunter Heck