To: North Dakota Senate
State and Local Government Committee
Date: 2/6/2023
Re: SCR 4007

Senator Roers and committee members,

I submit this written testimony IN FAVOR of SCR 4007 and as a supplement to the written testimony that I have already provided.

There is a lot of discussion about this in the emergency response circles of ND. The cold hard truth is that almost all of North Dakota completely lacks responders knowledgeable and skilled in the science and art of lost person search.
Yes, we have Sheriffs, EMS, and Fire Departments with off-road capabilities. When we find someone in the field who needs help, we can treat and transport them.

But first we must find them and very few parts of North Dakota have people trained to do that.

Manitoba and Minnesota both are light years ahead of ND. They are examples of how it could be done, without impeding upon the authority and responsibility of the County Sheriff who is by law legally responsible for SAR in ND.

We should encourage our elected representatives and our Sheriffs to address this lack of resources and create ways to support them as they do that.

Thank you,

William G. Socwell
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