February 6, 2023

Amy Jo Seagren-Hunt
10008 Pond Place
Bismarck, ND 58504

Re: SCR 4007

To Whom it May Concern:

I am the sister of Joby Seagren. Joby passed away on June 5, 2022, after an apparent kayaking accident on the Missouri River. Joby's body was ultimately found by a fisherman nine days after he was last seen on the Missouri River, and after we were told by law enforcement they would no longer make an extensive search on the river but would fly a plane twice a day. Local law enforcement will only search for 48 hours. Local law enforcement concentrated on the site where Joby supposedly entered the river. However, searches from the point of entry and witness accounts of his appearance on the river were not searched. Joby was found 15 miles from the reported site of entry. We waited for our loved one to "bloat and float for nine long days!"

Emergency services and law enforcement arrived on scene as soon as the accident was reported. However, getting a search underway and getting information from witnesses and those who were kayaking with him proved quickly to be a joke!

Badlands Search and Rescue was contacted by a family member and finally granted clearance to begin a search. This search included family, friends, and community members.

I write today and beg you to pass this bill because of the pure hell we went through as a family trying to locate our loved one. A combined effort was not put forth between the local law enforcement and Badlands Search and Rescue. And in the end, evidence provided by Badlands Search and Rescue appeared unimportant to local law enforcement.

Having a search and rescue team available is paramount. There also needs to be a coordinated effort between local law enforcement and that rescue team. I believe that if a search and rescue team had been available to our family immediately, our Joby would've been found sooner. Or perhaps the situation would've had a different outcome.

Please think of the families of the future. While our situation can't be changed, it could make a huge difference for someone looking for their loved one. Please do the right thing and pass bill SCR 4007.

Sincerely,

Amy Jo Seagren-Hunt