To: North Dakota Senate, State & Local Government Committee
Date: 2/9/2023
RE: SCR 4007 – TESTIMONY IN FAVOR

Chairwoman Roers and committee members,

My name is Matthew Earl, I am a board member and K9 Handler for Badlands Search & Rescue. I have a one-year-old purebred bloodhound named Copper. Copper is a man trailing working dog used for locating missing persons such as children, adults, and the elderly. There are various situations where Copper and I could be used. Runaways, overdue motorists, missing hunters, hikers, mountain bikers, elderly and autistic children that have a propensity to wander and the list goes on. The bloodhound has 300 million olfactory receptors in its nose whereas humans only have six million. The bloodhound is a crucial tool to have for search & rescue.

I am a police officer in the state of North Dakota and there is a dire need for search and rescue in this legendary state. I take calls of missing children, adults, and elderly on a regular basis. We are only able to handle and do so much at times. Search and rescue is another resource that we could use to help find missing people. That child, or that person has a family who wants them found as soon as possible. SAR can help make that process quicker and is able to work for various law enforcement agencies and with fire departments. SAR teams follow the Incident Command System (ICS) and other applicable systems that first responder agencies use.

I bought Copper in April of 2022 with my own funds and am also seeking training and certification now with training sessions almost daily. Copper is a family dog but a working dog as well. I have dedicated my time, money, and other resources to getting Copper, taking him to do training, and keeping him healthy and work ready. I plan on taking Copper to various seminars to learn more about man trailing. Copper is on track to be certified in the fall of 2023 where we would then be available for searches.

I am willing to use my dog for SAR purposes, however there is a need for standards, training, and inclusion in various emergency services aspects, especially when dealing with searches for missing persons. Currently we do lack search and rescue across the entire state and SCR 4007 would help me, the state, and the people of North Dakota be better prepared for various incidents.

SCR 4007 would be a step in the right direction for search and rescue and applicable areas and topics to be thoroughly studied to then move forward with what SARVAND and the NASAR model of national standards and guidelines has in place.

Please vote for SCR 4007 with a DO PASS recommendation.

Thank you,

Matthew Earl

Badlands Search and Rescue
Board Member / K9 Handler “K9 Copper”