

House Political Subdivisions Committee

House Concurrent Resolution 3020

Andrew Alexis Varvel

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Chairman Longmuir & Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrew Alexis Varvel.

I live in Bismarck.

HCR 3020 is not only unconstitutional, but it would potentially act as a battering ram against the very foundations of our federal republic.

Divine Right Monarchy was the reigning ideology of France at the time when France claimed Louisiana Territory by Right of Discovery.

And much of North Dakota was theoretically part of Louisiana.

Other parts of North Dakota were claimed by the British Empire.

Divine Right Monarchy was overthrown by England in 1689 with the Glorious Revolution, to be replaced by Parliamentary Supremacy.

The United States of America separated from the British Empire in 1776, confirmed in 1783 by the Treaty of Paris, to reject both the lawmaking supremacy of Parliament and royal supremacy of King George III.

Our founding fathers fought the Revolutionary War against the principle of Divine Right Monarchy. Our Constitution established three equal branches of divided government to function as a bulwark against tyranny.

One of the great achievements of General George Washington was maintaining cohesion among men from various different backgrounds. To this end, he prohibited Guy Fawkes celebrations on November 5, 1775, to maintain discipline and avoid offending Catholic religious sensibilities.

<https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-02-02-0279>

On August 18, 1790, President George Washington sent a letter to the Hebrew Congregation in Newport, Rhode Island. He wrote:

It is now no more that toleration is spoken of, as if it was by the indulgence of one class of people, that another enjoyed the exercise of their inherent natural rights. For happily the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens, in giving it on all occasions their effectual support.

<https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/05-06-02-0135>

House Concurrent Resolution 3020 seeks to impose theocracy. This intolerance tends to dissolve the social glue keeping free people together.

That said, HCR 3020 should be commended for its honesty in one respect. Federal Indian policy has historically been two-faced, presenting the face of a free republic to its own citizens while simultaneously presenting the face of a theocratic monarchy – of a “Great Father” – to Indian nations.

Although Indians have seen this face of theocratic monarchy for a very long time, this aspect of America is not one that we should celebrate.

Please give this resolution a strong **DO NOT PASS** recommendation.

Thank you. I am open for questions.