

March 12, 2025

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I write today in opposition of HCR 3013 and to ask, to plead, that your committee give it a “do NOT pass” recommendation. Vote NO for the future of North Dakota.

I am a proud, life-long North Dakotan. I have never turned my back on North Dakota, though it has often turned its back on me. I like to think that I have lived a life North Dakota would be proud of. I graduated from a small K12 school from which I was very active in multiple organizations on a national level. I always traveled with my North Dakota State flag, ready to tell stories to anyone who asked. I have sung “Got to go ta, North Dakotaaaa” off key in front of thousands. I am the fourth generation to farm the same land outside of tiny Rocklake, North Dakota. This fall, generation number five rode in the combine with me. What is more traditional than five generations on a farm?! I also hold a graduate degree from the University of North Dakota in American History. Specifically, I specialized in Agricultural and North Dakota History. I served as the Graduate Teaching Assistant for UND’s History of North Dakota course for three semesters. A life of doing everything North Dakota has asked of me, except I love the wrong person.

I am currently the Director of Admissions at a university in North Dakota. Did you know, Senators, that 81% of students nationally have said that a state’s political decisions are a driving factor to whether or not they enroll? Prospective students, the hard-working young people you so wish to attract, are saying No to North Dakota as they watch us land on the wrong side of history.

Lastly, I would plead that you take a moment to review the 279 pieces of testimony submitted for this bill. A mere 28 of these entries are In Favor of this resolution. Of those 28, 12 are from out of state entities. Of the remaining 16, half of those are “doubles” from individuals. Simple math tells us that 8 North Dakotans cared enough to support this backwards-thinking resolution. That is a lot of opposition you will need to answer to. And we will expect an answer, Senators. I’ve lived my life for North Dakota. Let me live here.

With Hope and Respect,

Alyson Leas, M.A.