

Testimony on 2025 Session SCR 4029

Good day, Chairman and members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee! For the record, my name is Carel Two-Eagle and I have come to you today to speak strongly in favor of SCR 4029, a bill to have Legislative Management study the many factors involved in having state agencies plant native Prairie and Pollinator plants wherever they do dirt work instead of planting sterile monocultures of invasive plants.

North Dakota is one of the Great Plains states. All of these states were originally thousands of miles of prairie plants that evolved over millennia to survive in this spectacular, often harsh, unique environment. Biome, if you prefer, since more than plants are part of these systems.

A biome is a large geographic region with distinct climate, vegetation, and animal life. Prairies are a type of grassland characterized by flat to rolling terrain, abundant grasses and wildflowers, and a relatively treeless landscape caused by such things as climate, grazing, and fire variations in vegetation. being due to

such things as climate, grazing, and fire, variations in vegetation being due to rainfall.

For more detailed information, I recommend you Search "prairie biome characteristics". There is an AI-generated article chock full of easy-to-follow information.

North Dakota is an iconic prairie (plains) state. We should be leading the country in preservation and restoration of prairies. Ecotourism is a huge financial boon for states like ours. The costs of planting and maintaining prairie plants is far less than those of sterile monocultures of invasive plants, while the benefits are huge.

Benefits include reductions in extinctions of prairie and pollinator species (all of which are on the Endangered Species list!!), slowing the climate disaster we are in, other states following our lead and looking to us for expertise, lower planting and maintenance costs because we are planting things that evolved over millennia to thrive in North Dakota!

The for-profit corporation I established in 2000 (Indian Maid Products Incorporated) to support the 501c3 non-profit Church of the Helping Hand, Inc., which I also head (we worship by helping others, not all of whom are human) owns a 3/4-acre piece of land outside of town. When we found we couldn't use it as we originally thought, we began killing the invasive smooth brome it had been planted to with my Prairie in a Box © non-poisonous method.

With two degrees in chemistry and a lifelong Traditional Lakota orientation, I absolutely believe we do not poison our Holy Mother Earth and then expect her to respond well. Instead, we gather big sheets of cardboard from nontoxic products, lay them on the smooth brome and earth, soak them, then plant 6"-8" - deep boxes of good dirt or potting soil with native prairie and pollinator plants cram them tightly together on the cardboard sheets, and watch them take off. There are few weeds to pull (smooth brome) and we only keep them watered the first year. We've done this since 2018. If we can do it, ND state agencies certainly can. I can make photos of our work on request, of course. And ND Game and Fish likes our method!

There are more benefits, but I am writing this with very limited Internet access since I've been in St. A hospital since 4 a.m. Friday March 7 after I gave up fighting pain from falling on concrete March 6 while getting in the pickup that morning. I broke my sacrum and two places in the pubic ring All nonsurgical, but excruciatingly painful! I have never been a dooper or a drinker and I'm not starting now. Thank you for accomodating me!

SCR 4029 is landmark legislation. North Dakota Game and Fish is excited about it. They have a program called the Meadowlark Initiative and this would support that.

Please give SCR 4029 a resounding unanimous Do Pass recommendation now and let's take North Dakota from a flyover state to an ecotourism and environmental beacon and guide! Until we can get me into suitable place, call me any time on the room landline 701 530 3402. I'm available 24/7 to answer questions. You can text or email me by cell at 70 426 0851: OneDakotaWoman@gmail.com. Wopila t'anka / Strong thanks!

(Rev.) Carel Two-Eagle, PK (Pipe Keeper), PB (Presiding Bishop, Church of the Helping Hand, Inc; and CVO (Chief Visionary Officer, Church, Indian Maid, and the Strong Secure Single Men's Housing Cooperative - the first truly new approach in the history of the world to reducing men's homelessness via a housing cooperative - team approach. Here, the entire cooperative membership is the team. Details on request!)

