

2013 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HCR 3029

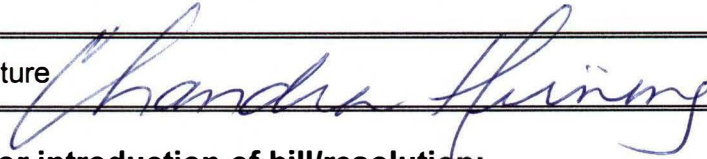
2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HCR 3029
February 14, 2013
Job 19004

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Commending the nation of Israel for its cordial and mutually beneficial relationship with the US and ND.

Minutes:

You may make reference to "attached testimony."

Chairman Kasper opened the hearing on HCR 3029.

0:15 **Rep. Grande, District 41:** Provided background to this Resolution. Expressed support of this resolution.

2:55 **Rep. Mooney:** Can you please give me a short explanation of the purpose of this?

Rep. Grande: Right now, twenty-five states have resolution in front of their legislatures. As a group, these will all be sent to Israel to offer support to them, to let them know we are their friends.

Rep. Gail Mooney: Have we done this for other countries?

Rep. Grande: No other country has been in the tumultuous situation Israel has. They are known as our great ally in that part of the world.

Rep. Mooney: We do have other counties that have been and are in great duress. Have we done that before?

Rep. Grande: That that I am aware of, not specially from North Dakota. Israel is noted as our true ally.

Rep. Rohr: Is this an exact replica of what the other states are putting in their resolutions?

Rep. Grande: This is very close to exactly the same. When the states that are working on this have our phone conferences, we have talked about the various changes with ours. Rep. Heller will show the spot we adjusted for her concerns.

Vice Chair Boehning: Reading on page 2, line 13, it says House of Representatives. On line 15, it says the members of the North Dakota Legislative Assembly. Is this coming from the House and not the Senate?

Rep. Grande: I am sorry I did not notice that. It should be both as a concurrent resolution.

Chairman Kasper: We can check with legislative council and make sure we have the right wording with the Senate concurring.

5:27 **Rep. Zaiser:** We have other friends in the Middle East. Would you say that we could clearly state that Israel greatest friend?

Rep. Grande: In the Middle East in this time, yes.

Chairman Kasper: Remember this resolution is focusing on Israel. If any other committee members would like a resolution focusing on any other country, you are free to bring it forward. This resolution stands on its own merit.

Rep. Laning: Personal comment about his trip to Israel.

Rep. Grande: Personal comment about her trip to Israel and her observation that school children were accompanied by armed guards.

Rep. Rohr: Question on wording on the top of page 1, missing word Concurrent.

Chairman Kasper: We will get it up to legislative council for the form and style corrections.

Support:

8:28 **Rep. Heller, District 33:** Expressed her support for this resolution. It is very important that North Dakota goes on record that we support Israel. The constituents with whom I gathered crafted this by taking bits and pieces from similar resolutions in other states. I had no idea Rep. Grande had one in the works.

10:55 **Pastor John Boustad, of Solomon's Rest, located in Bismarck:** I agree with the historical accuracy of what I read in the resolution. I am overwhelmed that our state could send a blessing to the Israel. If there was ever was a day when Israel needed a friend, that day would be right now. Shared personal observations from his trip to Israel. They are outnumbered greatly by their adversary in terms of members of the military and by arms. Financially, they do not have the horsepower of the nations around them. The nations neighboring Israel are seeking to annihilate the land of the Jewish people. Gave example of need for military members to be at constant readiness. The faith of our forefathers must be mentioned and brought up. The faith of our forefathers and the prosperity our nation came to know are tied closely to our relationship with Israel. America is and always has been united with Israel by faith and by religion. Our forefathers established our nation and our Constitution under what was known in that day as a Judeo-Christianity. Referred to Biblical history. Told story of Governor John Moses, the twenty-second governor of North

Dakota. Provided examples of communities in North Dakota that were settled by Hebrews in the time of the dispersion.

19:22 **Jan McEachran from Mandan:** Appearing in support. I am aware that other states are adding their voices to that of our Federal government in support of Israel. It is good for North Dakota to add our voice to that voice of support.

No opposition.

Hearing closed.

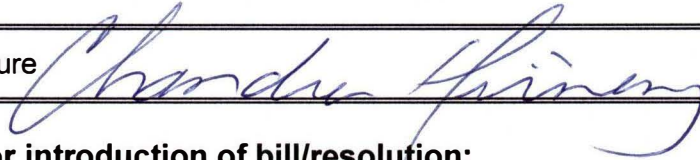
2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HCR 3029
February 15, 2013
Job 19019

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Commending the nation of Israel for its cordial and mutually beneficial relationship with the US and ND.

Minutes:

You may make reference to "attached testimony."

Chairman Kasper: Addressed concern expressed by committee member prior to start of recording.

Rep. Paur: I am going to oppose this resolution. This is way beyond our purview. In the Constitution, all international relations are the exclusive jurisdiction of the President and affirmation of the Senate; it forbids states from acting in that area.

Chairman Kasper: Explained that a resolution is nothing more than a statement of support or statement against. In this case, it's a statement of support of what the North Dakota Legislature believes about Israel. The fact is, of the allies that the United States has around the world, there is none more closely aligned with our nation and none more closely supportive of our nation than Israel. Maybe some do not like some of the Biblical wording in the resolution. However, it is very similar to resolutions in other states. It is a statement of support of the nation of Israel.

Rep. Mooney: I would agree with Rep. Paur. I believe that a resolution like this has no end result, other than to spend time talking about it and moving it forward. It's a feel good thing. Also, I am looking at the language. It's basically cookie cutter from language sent out by a group. For me, if we're going to have resolution, they should have meaning and impact. This is something being fed to us from outside sources. I do not appreciate that. Even the language. I want to be on the record that I do believe in God; I do believe in Jesus Christ. But that has no bearing on what our job is. In that respect, when I look at this language, I see us inserting into our government a very strong position of Christianity and/or Judaism. We have so many other people here in North Dakota whom we represent. For my part, I will be opposed to this resolution.

Chairman Kasper: We are not going to take this up this morning. I want the full committee here for that. We will wait for next Thursday or Friday for the resolution.

3:48 **Chairman Kasper** gave a preview of the agenda for next week.

4:12 to end of recording. Committee members discussed their observation of appropriations. Discussed general procedures of appropriations committee. Discussed general workflow from committee to amendments to calendar.

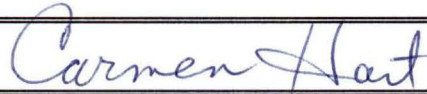
2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Fort Union Room, State Capitol

HCR 3029
February 21, 2013
19350

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Commending the nation of Israel for its cordial and mutually beneficial relationship with the US and ND.

Minutes:

You may make reference to "attached testimony."

Chairman Jim Kasper explained what a resolution. He read from Page 2, Line 13 to the end. This is a resolution of support of Israel. This is not binding on the legislature. It is not binding on anyone other than it is a statement of intent of what our legislature supports. Now we can discuss what the whereases are and any other amendment that the committee might wish to look at.

Rep. Karen Karls I am okay with the language in part of the bill, because I do support Israel. I am a little uncomfortable with the first three whereases. I would propose amending the first three whereases out and just start with Line 12.

Rep. Vicky Steiner seconded.

Rep. Ben Koppelman To me the second whereas probably is the most along the lines of what I understand Rep. Karls to say. The Bible and the Old Testament are both considered historical documents even for people that don't subscribe to a Jud ail or a Christian religion. It is not saying that we as a state subscribe to that, but it does say that we recognize the historical importance of it. I think the first whereas is fine. The second whereas, if we don't want to put a quote from that into a resolution, I understand. I can't find any object to the third one at all.

Rep. Steven Zaiser I think by taking up this bill we are charting new territory where I don't think we ought to be. Here is a situation where a state legislative branch is beginning to embark on executive powers at the national level. Furthermore, in terms of encroachment, Israel has encroached on what people would call the Palestinian territory. I don't know where we start or stop if we start doing this.

Rep. Karen Rohr I have in my notes that 25 states currently have a resolution such as this in place and 5 states actually used this particular model.

Rep. Gail Mooney I still would question whether this is something that a state should be doing. We are not a sovereign nation. We have no part in international politics. As I look at it, I would say why we do have any of the whereases? If we want to make a statement, we can simply state that it is resolved that the House of Representatives and the Senate concur, etc. from Line 13, Page 2 on down that we acknowledge. I don't think we need God given right in there.

A voice vote was tried on amending out the first three whereases. A roll vote had to be taken and the amendment was adopted, 10-3, 1 absent,

Rep. Ben Koppelman made a motion to amend the bill to amend whereas 1 and 3 back into the bill.

Rep. Karen Rohr seconded.

Rep. Ben Koppelman In the Declaration of Independence of our state it certainly references a God. I don't find offensive to have the term God in this resolution.

A voice vote was tried. A roll call vote had to be taken and fails, 5-8, 1 absent.

Rep. Gail Mooney made a motion for an amendment to remove Lines 1-24 on Page 1, and Lines 1-12 on Page 2, remove the words now and therefore and let Line 13 start with it be it resolved by the House of Representatives of ND, the Senate concurring therein, and allow the rest of the language to play.

Rep. Steven Zaiser seconded.

A roll call vote was taken and failed 5-8, 1 absent.

Rep. Ben Koppelman moved a Do pass as amended.

Rep. Vernon Laning seconded.

A roll call vote was taken and resulted in **DO PASS AS AMENDED, 9-4, 1 ABSENT.** **Rep. Vernon Laning** is the carrier.

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Title.03000

Adopted by the Government and Veterans
Affairs Committee
February 21, 2013

2/21/13
C. M. K.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3029

Page 1, remove lines 3 through 11

Renumber accordingly

Date: 2-21-13
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 3029**

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt Amendment
 Rerefer to Appropriations Reconsider

Motion Made By Karls Seconded By Steiner

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Jim Kasper			Rep. Bill Amerman		
Vice Chairman Randy Boehning			Rep. Gail Mooney		
Rep. Jason Dockter			Rep. Marie Strinden		
Rep. Karen Karls			Rep. Steven Zaiser		
Rep. Ben Koppelman					
Rep. Vernon Laning					
Rep. Scott Louser					
Rep. Gary Paur					
Rep. Karen Rohr					
Rep. Vicky Steiner					

*tried
 voice to
 amend out
 the first
 three
 whereas
 I had
 to do
 a roll
 vote*

Total (Yes) _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 2-21-13
 Roll Call Vote #: 2

**2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 3029**

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt Amendment
 Rerefer to Appropriations Reconsider

Motion Made By Karls Seconded By Steiner

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Jim Kasper	X		Rep. Bill Amerman	X	
Vice Chairman Randy Boehning	X		Rep. Gail Mooney		X
Rep. Jason Dockter	X		Rep. Marie Strinden		
Rep. Karen Karls	X		Rep. Steven Zaiser	X	
Rep. Ben Koppelman		X			
Rep. Vernon Laning	X				
Rep. Scott Louser	X				
Rep. Gary Paur	X				
Rep. Karen Rohr		X			
Rep. Vicky Steiner	X				

*Amending
 out the
 first three
 will release*

Total (Yes) 10 No 3

Absent 1

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 2-21-13
 Roll Call Vote #: 3

**2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 3029**

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt Amendment
 Rerefer to Appropriations Reconsider

Motion Made By Koppelman Seconded By Rohr

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Jim Kasper			Rep. Bill Amerman		
Vice Chairman Randy Boehning			Rep. Gail Mooney		
Rep. Jason Dockter			Rep. Marie Strinden		
Rep. Karen Karls			Rep. Steven Zaiser		
Rep. Ben Koppelman					
Rep. Vernon Laning					
Rep. Scott Louser					
Rep. Gary Paur					
Rep. Karen Rohr					
Rep. Vicky Steiner					

*tried voice vote to amend + whereas 143
 Reinsert into bill + had to do a roll vote*

Total (Yes) _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 2-21-13
 Roll Call Vote #: 4

**2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 3029**

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt Amendment
 Rerefer to Appropriations Reconsider

Motion Made By Koppelman Seconded By Rohr

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Jim Kasper		X	Rep. Bill Amerman		X
Vice Chairman Randy Boehning		X	Rep. Gail Mooney		X
Rep. Jason Dockter	X		Rep. Marie Strinden		
Rep. Karen Karls		X	Rep. Steven Zaiser		X
Rep. Ben Koppelman	X				
Rep. Vernon Laning	X				
Rep. Scott Louser	X				
Rep. Gary Paur		X			
Rep. Karen Rohr	X				
Rep. Vicky Steiner		X			

*To amend to
 reinset whereas 1+3*

motion fails

Total (Yes) 5 No 8
 Absent 1
 Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 2-21-13
 Roll Call Vote #: 5

**2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 3029**

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt Amendment
 Rerefer to Appropriations Reconsider

Motion Made By Mooney Seconded By Zaiser

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Jim Kasper		X	Rep. Bill Amerman	X	
Vice Chairman Randy Boehning		X	Rep. Gail Mooney	X	
Rep. Jason Dockter		X	Rep. Marie Strinden		
Rep. Karen Karls		X	Rep. Steven Zaiser	X	
Rep. Ben Koppelman		X			
Rep. Vernon Laning		X			
Rep. Scott Louser	X				
Rep. Gary Paur	X				
Rep. Karen Rohr		X			
Rep. Vicky Steiner		X			

motion failed
 To remove lines 1-24 on P. 1 and lines 1-12 on P. 2. Remove the words now and therefore and let on Line 3, Page 2

Total (Yes) 5 No 8
 Absent 1
 Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Date: 2-21-13
 Roll Call Vote #: 6

**2013 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 3029**

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt Amendment
 Rerefer to Appropriations Reconsider

Motion Made By Koppelman Seconded By Laning

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Jim Kasper	X		Rep. Bill Amerman		X
Vice Chairman Randy Boehning	X		Rep. Gail Mooney		X
Rep. Jason Dockter	X		Rep. Marie Strinden		
Rep. Karen Karls	X		Rep. Steven Zaiser		X
Rep. Ben Koppelman	X				
Rep. Vernon Laning	X				
Rep. Scott Louser	X				
Rep. Gary Paur		X			
Rep. Karen Rohr	X				
Rep. Vicky Steiner	X				

Total (Yes) 9 No 4

Absent _____

Floor Assignment Laning

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HCR 3029: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Kasper, Chairman)
recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends
DO PASS (9 YEAS, 4 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3029 was
placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, remove lines 3 through 11

Renumber accordingly

2013 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HCR 3029

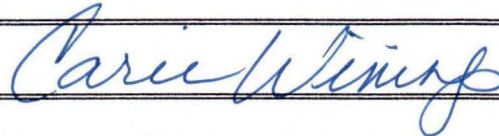
2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee Missouri River Room, State Capitol

HCR 3029
04/04/2013
Job Number 20858 and 20870

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

A concurrent resolution commending the nation of Israel for its cordial and mutually beneficial relationship with the United States and with the state of North Dakota.

Minutes:

Chairman Dever: Opened the hearing on HCR 3029.

Representative Grande, District 41: See Attachment #1 for testimony as sponsor of the bill.

(5:20)Chairman Dever: I am sure the Governor doesn't sign resolutions like this does he?

Representative Grande: I do not believe he does.

(5:52)Representative Heller, District 33: See Attachment #2 for testimony as a sponsor on the bill.

(7:40)Representative Glassheim, District 18: See Attachment #3 for testimony in opposition to the bill.

(15:22)Chairman Dever: You started your testimony by saying that you don't support the bill as it is currently written, but you sounded to me like you don't much care for the intent of it. My question is if there language that would satisfy you?

Representative Glassheim: I thought about coming here with a different resolution to the hearing. The intent of it is to encourage Israel to take over all the land of Palestine and I do oppose that. I could see writing wordage which encourages Israel to negotiate with the

Palestinians and to move toward the two state solution which is the United State policy. ...

I could rewrite it if it is your desire but it would be very different in intent than what it is now.

Chairman Dever: It seems to me that the interest of the authors is apparent in the resolution and to do that would change that.

Representative Glassheim: That is why I simply oppose it and hope it is defeated. I think their intent is misguided.

Vice Chairman Berry: My impression of it is that it is intended to be a statement of support for the state of Israel, who I believe is our greatest ally, but you look at this and appear to be saying that Israel does not have a claim to where they are and that this is telling them there should be no Palestinian state, is that what I heard you say?

Representative Glassheim: I believe Judea is what is in dispute about the settlements and how much land Israel should occupy. I am not against the state of Israel; I am certainly for it. My concern is that if there is no peace between Israel and the Palestinians, a two state solution, I think Israel is **threatened**. I think the recommendations in here oppose the safety of Israel. There is a legitimate disagreement about that but most every nation in the UN agrees with me and the US policy has been that under Republicans and Democrats for years. I see this resolution as encouraging Israel to expand all the land in Palestine. (Re-stated part of testimony) I am not against the state of Israel - I am for it.

Vice Chairman Berry: I do not see that when I read it that there cannot be a two state solution. Obviously this is something that has been going on for many years and when I read this I did not see anything that would not allow for a two state solution.

Representative Glassheim: The language, in the 650,000 Jews residing in those areas, this says the legitimate. There cannot be peace as long as they are occupying the settlement. This gives Biblical or league of nation's justification for them to make a two state

solution impossible. The terms, the entirety of its own lands, so the boundaries of what the state of Israel will be are said in here, and it comes from a Biblical basis, and it is stated in here, Judea, Samaria, and Eastern Jerusalem which are exactly the things which need to be negotiated to get to a two state solution. That is why I see this resolution making that impossible. I could be wrong.

Senator Cook: I hate to ask questions on what goes on in the Middle East. Before Israel was Israel, that land, what country was it?

Committee Discussion: The committee proceeded to discuss the history of the Israel and Palestine. The committee is confused how Palestine is an issue for Representative Glassheim when it is not mentioned in the bill. Representative Glassheim stated that that was exactly the reason why; that the resolution implies that Israel and the Jews are the only nation we care about and you cannot have a two state peace without referring to the Palestinians.

Chairman Dever: Closed the hearing on HCR 3029.

Job Number 20870 begins here:

Chairman Dever: Opens HCR for committee discussion. I think the United States generally supports Israel and we recognize that Israel has some serious enemies over there. We supported Kuwait against Iraq and is that because of a common heritage or because strategically it is in our interests to do that?

Committee Discussion: The committee discussed the history of Israel briefly. The oldest constitution is that of the United States and a lot of other countries boundaries have fluctuated.

Senator Cook: Does Israel have a constitution?

Chairman Dever: I think so.

Senator Cook: Do they practice natural law? (God given rights)

Chairman Dever: I believe so.

Senator Nelson: I found it interesting that the testimonies of Representative Grande and Representative Glassheim were so different from each other on this as if they were coming from two different worlds, and that is the problem I have with it.

Chairman Dever: Closed the committee discussion on HCR 3029.

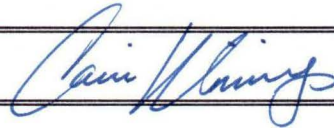
2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee
Missouri River Room, State Capitol

HCR 3029
04/09/2013
Job Number 21042

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Minutes:

Chairman Dever: Opened HCR 3029 for Committee Discussion. I do not have a big problem for this. I am not sure about the need for it.

Senator Cook: Moved a Do Pass.

Senator Schaible: Seconded.

A Roll Call Vote Was Taken: 4 yeas, 3 nays, 0 absent.

Vice Chairman Berry: Carrier.

Date: 4/9

Roll Call Vote #: 1

2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 3029

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken: Do Pass Do Not Pass Amended Adopt Amendment
 Rerefer to Appropriations Reconsider

Motion Made By Senator Cook Seconded By Senator Schaible

Senators	Yes	No	Senator	Yes	No
Chairman Dick Dever	✓		Senator Carolyn Nelson		✓
Vice Chairman Spencer Berry	✓		Senator Richard Marcellais		✓
Senator Dwight Cook	✓				
Senator Donald Schaible	✓				
Senator Nicole Poolman		✓			

Total (Yes) 4 No 3

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Senator Berry

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HCR 3029, as engrossed: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Dever, Chairman) recommends DO PASS (4 YEAS, 3 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HCR 3029 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2013 TESTIMONY

HCR 3029

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee:

It is my pleasure to present a resolution that we can all agree upon and feel good about. North Dakotans have a strong desire and interest in promoting productive and friendly relations with America's greatest ally, Israel.

North Dakota and the State of Israel share significant interests that make us natural partners for friendly relations and bilateral trade.

First, geological exploration has recently revealed that Israel has massive energy deposits within its territory, and will soon be a major exporter. A natural gas field containing an estimated 35 year deposit has gone online in the past few months. More importantly, surveys are indicating that Israel is sitting upon a 250 Billion barrel deposit of shale oil. It should also be noted that Israel is looking to improve and develop technologies that will make extraction more efficient. It is imperative that North Dakota look for ways to connect with Israel in the energy sector.

Secondly, Israel is a world leader in the development of agricultural science and technology. This extends to all phases of cultivation, from water desalinization and bioengineering to breakthroughs in packaging technology that will help reduce reliance upon foods preservatives. We want the benefits of such expertise to be shared with the great community of farmers here in North Dakota.

Lastly, we must recognize that Israel is a vital ally who shares America's values and sacred liberties. Because of the endless hostility and turmoil in the Middle East, Israel's commitment to upholding democratic freedom comes at a high price. A relentless campaign is being waged against Israel to attack its legitimacy in virtually every aspect of its historical, legal, political, and cultural life, with the aim of undermining the sovereignty, security and very foundations of her existence.

The enemies who attack Israel are also self-avowed enemies of America. Let there be no doubt then that support for Israel is a point of American patriotism. Supporting Israel makes us better Americans. It is therefore the responsibility and desire of the people of North Dakota to stand in support of Israel by identifying her historic, legal and moral rights, and in doing so to refute the many lies and distortions used to manipulate public opinion against her by clearly recognizing that Israel is neither an attacker nor an occupier of the land of others. Israel is America's most strategically important, loyal ally in the Middle East, and the responsibility of an ally is to be there when needed. The message we are sending to our Israeli friends in this resolution is not just "we want to do business with you," but instead "we want to stand with you as a friend and ally."

This resolution is non-partisan and has passed unanimously in the 8 other states and is passing through other states at this time, including by our neighbors in South Dakota. I ask that we all come together today so that we can deliver a message of unanimous support to the State of Israel as we seek to increase North Dakota's relations with such an important ally.

Thank you. Representative Bette Grande, District 41

HCR 3029

Rep. Heller

This is a concurrent resolution commending the nation of Israel for its cordial and mutually beneficial relationship with the United States and North Dakota. North Dakota has been involved with numerous agriculture research and development agreements and studies with Israel as far back as 1977. In 2011 alone North Dakota exported over \$7.7 million dollars' worth of products directly to Israel.

The shared values and mutual interests have made Israel the closest ally of the United States in the entire Middle East.

This resolution would be sent to the Israeli Ambassador to the United States, the President of the United States and our congressional delegation in Washington. North Dakota should recognize our international friends and support them.

I urge a Do Pass on HCR 3029

Glassheim, Eliot A.

From: Glassheim, Eliot A.
Sent: Sunday, March 31, 2013 10:34 PM
To: Glassheim, Eliot A.
Subject: Israel Resolution 3029

Israel Resolution 3029

I'm sorry to take your time to oppose a resolution which has no effect and has no reason to be before the North Dakota legislature, but it seems to me that many of the Whereases are so misleading that I felt compelled to tell you why I think it would be embarrassing to pass 3029.

Let's start with lines 3 through 8 on page 1, which locate the Jews' legal basis to Palestine in a 1922 Resolution of the League of Nations. Of course the claim carefully omits a crucial portion of the Preamble to the 1922 Resolution. This instructs the Mandate (that is, the British) to establish in Palestine a national home for the Jewish people, quote: "it being understood that nothing should be done which might prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine." End quote. The dual nature of the Mandate--to establish a national home for Jews in Palestine and at the same time to protect the rights of non-Jews living in Palestine--is still, after 90 years, not settled. I oppose the resolution before you because it aggressively presents only one-half of the problem.

On page 1, lines 9 through 12 reference the United Nations charter to justify the right of Jews to occupy all the territory they now occupy. But since 1948, Israel's standing in the United Nations has gone down hill. The UN has called upon Israel hundreds of times to change its behavior towards the Palestinians, with no compliance by Israel. The US has had a veto over 33 Security Council resolutions under Reagan, Clinton and the Bushes in order to protect Israel against UN censure for illegally deporting Palestinians, for erecting a Separation Barrier through the occupied West Bank, for assassinating a quadriplegic cleric, and for a military attack on Gaza which killed many civilians and caused extensive property damage.

If we're going to reference the UN, we should know that its outstanding guidance on the settlement of Israeli-Palestinian conflict is Resolution 242. 242 says that peace must be achieved through withdrawal of Israeli forces from territories occupied in the 1967 conflict AND recognition of Israel's right to exist within secure borders. The resolution before you completely ignores the UN's framework for peace. In fact, it urges you to ignore it.

Line 14 claims that the land Israel now occupies was "God-given." I did not know that the Bible was a legitimate basis for international law or for property law. If you read the history of the past 120 years to find out how Israel got to occupy the territory it now claims, you find that it has less to do with God and more to do with the balance of power between Britain, France, Turkey, Russia and the United States.

Lines 22 through 24 assert that the enemies of Israel in the Middle East are the enemies of the US and that these enemies seek to destroy both Israel and the United States. While this is of course partially true, it overstates the case and leads to a fatally wrong conclusion. Jordan and Egypt long ago signed peace treaties with Israel, recognizing its right to exist. Neither of those countries is out to destroy the US. Saudi Arabia, while the home of some terrorists, has long had close relations with the Bush family and with the US.

Many Palestinians are citizens of Israel and, while they may not like the way they are treated by the Israeli government, they neither hate nor seek to destroy the US or Israel.

Lines 1 through 3 on page two reference the "cordial and mutually beneficial relations" North Dakota has had with Israel since 1948. I am not aware that our state has any official relations with Israel, cordial or frigid. Have we exchanged Ambassadors? Do we have an embassy or even a trade office in Israel? I looked up the dollar volume of export trade

between the US and Israel. Of \$4.3 billion in exports from North Dakota in 2012, 71% was with Canada, 6% with Mexico, 3% with Australia, 2% with Belgium and 1.3% with Russia. Israel was not in the top 25 of our trading partners. Are we to have resolutions praising our "cordial and mutually beneficial relations" with all top 25 trading partners? Perhaps we should have a hoghouse amendment praising Belgium.

What's wrong with this resolution is summed up on lines 8 and 9 and 10 and 11.

Israel's legal right to the settlements is disputed by the United Nations Security Council, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the parties to the Geneva Convention, and the International Court of Justice. Its historical right is based on a 5000 year old Biblical covenant, which has no standing in international or American law. The actual history of the land for the past thousand years is a mess of ownership, invasions and occupations by various peoples, nations and empires. Israel's moral right to the land has been compromised by its aggressive destruction of Palestinian homes, orchards and sources of water, and the displacement of some 800,000 angry refugees throughout the Middle East. Though the Palestinians, Hamas, and the Arab countries surrounding Israel have certainly not been choir boys, Israel has lost its former claim to the moral high ground.

Finally, on lines 10 and 11, the resolution asserts that peace can only be achieved by Israel's ownership and governance of all of Palestine. But this is simply not true. Under the guise of making peace, this resolution encourages Israel to take and occupy more land by force from the Palestinians now living there. But there can be no peace in the Arab world without an agreement with the Palestinians which provides for both Israel and Palestine to exist. Further Israeli expansion means more enemies will be created and more treasure will be wasted for decades to come.

As legislators, you know that there can be no resolution to a conflict unless both parties are at the table. This resolution treats the Palestinians as if they did not exist. That is not how one makes peace.

SB 3029 is unnecessary, biased, and misleading. If anyone took it seriously, it would cause more harm than good. I urge you to defeat it.