

North Dakota
STOCKMEN'S ASSOCIATION



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North Dakota Stockmen's Association
Testimony to the
Senate Government and Veteran Affairs Committee on SCR 4007
Feb. 4, 2021

Good morning, Chairman Vedaa and members of the Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee. For the record, my name is Elizabeth Neshem. I appear here this morning on behalf of the North Dakota Stockmen's Association. For those of you who aren't familiar with the Association, it is a 91-year-old beef cattle trade organization representing approximately 3,000 North Dakota cattle-ranching families, including many who are state school land lessees and the day-to-day stewards of this North Dakota resource.

The North Dakota Stockmen's Association rises in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 4007, which would add the agriculture commissioner to the North Dakota Board of University and School Lands. The board oversees more than 700,000 surface acres, which are leased to agricultural producers. It makes sense to us to include the agriculture commissioner on the board to bring industry expertise to the table as the board makes decisions regarding the management and leasing of these acres. The agriculture commissioner would be an appropriate liaison to the agricultural community, an important constituency of the board.

For these reasons, we encourage your do-pass recommendation on this resolution and

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hope that the citizens of North Dakota can have a chance to vote of this logical addition.

Thank you for your time this morning.