

**2025 HOUSE AGRICULTURE**

**HCR 3026**

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Agriculture Committee**  
Room JW327C, State Capitol

HCR 3026  
2/13/2025

A concurrent resolution urging Congress and the President of the United States to pursue diplomatic efforts, in good faith and with respect for the sovereignty of all parties, to propose the peaceful annexation of Greenland as a territory of the United States of America.

10:27 a.m. Chairman Beltz opened the meeting.

Members Present: Chairman Beltz, Vice Chairman Hauck, Representatives Anderson, Henderson, Holle, Kiefert, Nehring, Olson, Rios, Schreiber-Beck, Tveit, Vollmer

Members Absent: Representatives Dobervich, Hoverson

## Discussion Topics:

- Cultural autonomy
- 60,000 population
- Ongoing debate
- No coveting Greenland
- Supports militarily
- Greenland's idea

10:28 a.m. Representative Jared Hendrix, District 10, West Fargo, ND, introduced, testified and submitted testimony #37552.

10:47 a.m. Andrew Alexis Varvel, Bismarck, ND, submitted testimony in opposition #37534.

10:51 a.m. Representative Rios moved Do Pass.

10:51 a.m. Representative Nehring seconded the motion.

| Representatives                       | Vote |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| Representative Mike Beltz             | N    |
| Representative Dori Hauck             | Y    |
| Representative Karen A. Anderson      | Y    |
| Representative Gretchen Dobervich     | AB   |
| Representative Donna Henderson        | Y    |
| Representative Dawson Holle           | N    |
| Representative Jeff Hoverson          | AB   |
| Representative Dwight Kiefert         | Y    |
| Representative Dennis Nehring         | Y    |
| Representative SuAnn Olson            | Y    |
| Representative Nico Rios              | Y    |
| Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck | N    |

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Representative Bill Tveit        | Y |
| Representative Daniel R. Vollmer | Y |

Motion passed 9-3-2

10:53 a.m. Representative Rios will carry the bill.

**Additional written testimony:**

Ritika Gerdes, West Fargo, submitted testimony in opposition #37242.

Peggy Stenehjem-Titus, Fargo, ND, submitted testimony in opposition #37297.

Carter R. Hass, Valley City, ND, submitted testimony in opposition #36338.

Jan M. Russell, Davenport, ND, submitted testimony in opposition #36911.

Amabrosia J. Boehm, Mandan, ND, submitted testimony in opposition #36972.

RaNae Jochim, Bismarck, ND, submitted testimony in opposition #37226.

Kara Geiger, Mandan, ND, submitted testimony in opposition #37379.

David J. Gipson, Minot, ND, submitted testimony in opposition #37388

Neta K. McDonald, Lincoln, ND, submitted testimony in opposition #37460.

10:53 a.m. Chairman Beltz closed the meeting.

*Diane Lillis, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**HCR 3026 ([25.3058.01000](#))**

**Agriculture Committee (Rep. Beltz, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (9 YEAS, 3 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3026 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

## Testimony in Opposition of HCR 3026

Carter Hass  
February 13, 2025

Dear Honorable Members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Carter Hass, and I strongly affirm a “DO NOT PASS” recommendation for resolution HCR 3026.

I recommend that you strike down this resolution based on the Status Quo and Anti-imperialism.

North Dakotans are looking to you to reduce costs, protect cities, and provide for the people. You are the people. This legislation uses precious legislative time for national affirmation of policies. You are at a record number of pieces of Legislation in the status quo, and it is a crucial time for our state and its youth. I urge you not to pass this legislation and focus your honorable efforts on more dire issues.

I find imperialism to be a moral evil. Britannica defines imperialism as a “state policy, practice, or [advocacy](#) of extending power and dominion, especially by direct territorial acquisition or by gaining political and economic control of other areas.” What you’re advocating for could be internationally considered a projection of power, aka imperialism. I recognize the need to show 21st-century dominance in this evil era. But let us not forget the great responsibility that comes with power. I also acknowledge the need for national security, but our national security does not depend on the status of a Northern Territory; alliances and military expansion can exist without taking over sovereign land, hence every American base in Europe as of 2025. Considering the need for a show of force, we can surely adapt, but the backing of taking over a sovereign nation is unacceptable. Greenland is free, and we cannot support whether its annexation is peaceful or not. Our power belongs elsewhere; using it to dominate other nations for our benefit is wrong.

You may hear arguments like the ones I provide today; however, where I differ is in my morals. America cannot follow a path of peaceful imperialism. Because peaceful imperialism is still imperialism. Adolf Hitler annexed Austria peacefully with extending power and imperialism, and yet his empire fell from corruption and evil. America was built by hard work and manifest density, which worked for the time. But like all great nations, we must adapt to new times. In the 21st century, America must focus on patriotism and unity. Therefore, as a State, we must not pledge our support or time to the annexation of Greenland. I urge you not to pass this resolution. I continue to pray for you and your phenomenal work. Thank you for your service to our state. God bless you all,

Carter Hass.

I am writing to OPPOSE the legislation to support presidential efforts to “peacefully annex” the autonomous territory of Greenland. Greenland has been a part of Denmark since 986 AD. IT has no interest in being part of the USA (especially now that we are indulging in such ridiculous antics).

I am appalled that my taxpayer dollars are being wasted on junk legislation. Focus on things that are important to the state of North Dakota and not “annexing” other countries, no matter what the “logic” may be.

It’s time to start limiting bills that are introduced to the state legislature so that legislators can remember what’s really important.

Jan Russell  
4910 157th Ave SE  
Davenport, ND 58021

My name is Ambrosia Boehm, I moved to Mandan in 4<sup>th</sup> grade with my parents who grew up here and wanted to raise me in their home town and I oppose this resolution.

This resolution uses words like “peaceful” and “with respect” when The President refuses to rule out military action, France’s Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot has stated that if Denmark were to request “solidarity” from EU countries, “France will be there. The European Commissioner for Defence, Brussels, Andrius Kubilius has stated “We are ready to defend our member state, Denmark.” And High Representative Kaja Kallas responded to a question regarding if a deal could be struck for greenland with “No, we are not negotiating on Greenland. We are supporting our member state, Denmark, and its autonomous region.”

It is my opinion that to support the annexation of Greenland would be to support sending the united States into a war that it’s citizens did not ask for. Not only risking our national security further but also our citizens safety. As a citizen of North Dakota I hope you choose to put your community and your people first.

**February 11, 2025**

I am strongly opposed to this resolution and find it not only a complete waste of taxpayers dollars to spend any time on this but also completely embarrassing for the state of North Dakota.

Please, PLEASE, focus on things that are actually needed in this state.

RaNae Jochim  
South Bismarck resident

Currently ashamed to be a born and raised North Dakotan



I am writing to express my strong opposition to HCR 3026, which urges the United States to pursue the annexation of Greenland as a U.S. territory. This resolution is inappropriate, diplomatically irresponsible, and a violation of Greenland's sovereignty.

### **Violation of Greenland's Sovereignty**

Greenland is an autonomous territory of the Kingdom of Denmark, with its own government and democratic system. Its people have repeatedly expressed no interest in becoming a U.S. territory. Encouraging the U.S. government to pursue annexation, even under the guise of "diplomatic efforts," is an unwarranted interference in Greenland's self-determination and disrespects the sovereignty of both Greenland and Denmark.

The principle of self-determination, as recognized by international law (Article 1 of the UN Charter), affirms that people have the right to determine their own political status without external pressure or coercion. The U.S. should respect this fundamental principle, rather than advocating for policies that ignore the will of Greenland's people.

### **Diplomatic and International Ramifications**

This resolution, if acted upon, could damage U.S. relations with Denmark, the European Union, and other allies. Denmark has already firmly rejected past suggestions of U.S. annexation of Greenland, including when President Donald Trump floated the idea in 2019. Pressuring Greenland to join the U.S. could be seen as an act of economic and political coercion, undermining trust in U.S. foreign policy.

Additionally, this proposal could set a dangerous precedent by suggesting that the U.S. can acquire territories through negotiation with foreign governments rather than with the full and democratic consent of the people affected. This could weaken America's global standing as a nation that promotes democracy and sovereignty.

### **Lack of Strategic or Economic Justification**

While Greenland is rich in natural resources and strategically located, that does not justify a push for annexation. The U.S. already has access to military and research bases in Greenland, including Thule Air Base, through agreements with Denmark. There is no need for annexation to maintain military cooperation or economic ties.

If the U.S. wishes to strengthen its relationship with Greenland, it should increase economic partnerships, scientific cooperation, and diplomatic engagement, rather than advocate for territorial acquisition.

### **Conclusion**

HCR 3026 is a misguided and diplomatically reckless resolution that would harm U.S. foreign relations, disrespect Greenland's sovereignty, and contradict America's stated commitment to democracy and self-determination. The United States should focus on mutually beneficial cooperation, not annexation efforts that would be widely opposed by the international community and the people of Greenland.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote NO on HCR 3026.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Members of the Committee, I urge a Do Not Pass on HCR 3026. It is amazing to me that we even have to be discussing this issue. Greenland is an autonomous territory in the Kingdom of Denmark with its inhabitants being Denmark citizens. How have we as a country become so self-serving and self-important that we think we should be able to acquire this property because we want it? I don't remember Denmark listing it for sale on Zillow or anywhere else for that matter. In keeping with this territory grabbing thought, maybe Mexico should just decide they want Texas. I mean they used to control that area, it is so close, and it could be useful to them. Just as Mexico would have no right to attempt to take Texas, we have absolutely no right to pursue this land grab, and I urge you to vote Do Not Pass on this resolution. Thank you for your time. Peggy L. Stenehjem-Titus Fargo, ND

**Opposition to H.C.R. 3026****2/12/2025**

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing to express my **unequivocal opposition** to House Concurrent Resolution No. 3026, which urges Congress and the President to pursue the annexation of Greenland as a territory of the United States. This proposal is not only **impractical and disrespectful** to the sovereignty of Greenland and the Kingdom of Denmark, but it also reflects a **reckless expansionist mindset** that we must firmly reject.

Greenland is an autonomous territory with its own rich culture, history, and governance. The notion of annexing it, even through so-called "diplomatic efforts," is a blatant disregard for the self-determination of the Greenlandic people. We must ask ourselves: **What right do we have to propose such an intrusion into their autonomy?**

This resolution is a direct continuation of President Trump's misguided ambitions to acquire Greenland—a proposal that was met with international ridicule and condemnation. Just because the President desires something does not mean we should pursue it, especially when it undermines our nation's standing and principles.

At a time when our country faces pressing domestic challenges—such as economic inequality, healthcare access, environmental crises, and the **dismantling of essential federal agencies—diverting attention and resources to territorial expansion is irresponsible and tone-deaf**. We should focus on addressing the needs of our citizens rather than entertaining fantasies of expansion that belong to a bygone era.

I urge you to **reject this resolution** and instead prioritize initiatives that respect international sovereignty, uphold our nation's values, and address the real issues facing our state and country.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kara Geiger  
Mandan

**Written Testimony Opposing HRC 3060**

David Gipson 1314 8<sup>th</sup> St NW APT 207 Minot, ND 58701

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 3026, which urges the U.S. Congress and the President to pursue the annexation of Greenland as a territory of the United States. This resolution is not only impractical but also disregards key ethical, diplomatic, and geopolitical considerations.

First, the resolution fails to respect Greenland's sovereignty and the self-determination of its people. Greenland is an autonomous territory of the Kingdom of Denmark, and any proposal for annexation disregards its citizens' right to determine their own political future. Any such efforts to pressure Greenland into U.S. territorial status would undermine international norms regarding national sovereignty and self-governance.

Additionally, the resolution overemphasizes economic and strategic interests while failing to acknowledge the cultural and historical ties Greenland has with Denmark. The proposal implies that Greenland's value is primarily in its natural resources and strategic location, rather than recognizing the needs and desires of its people. Such an approach risks alienating Greenlanders and the broader international community.

Moreover, the United States has historically faced significant challenges in governing its existing territories. The ongoing struggles of Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories highlight the complexities of territorial governance, including inadequate representation, economic dependency, and insufficient federal support. Rather than pursuing new territorial acquisitions, the U.S. should focus on addressing the needs of its current territories and indigenous communities.

Finally, the proposal risks straining diplomatic relations with Denmark, a longstanding ally of the United States. Pursuing Greenland's annexation, even through diplomatic efforts, could be perceived as an aggressive and unwarranted intervention in Denmark's affairs, potentially damaging an important transatlantic relationship.

For these reasons, I urge the North Dakota Legislative Assembly to reject House Concurrent Resolution 3026 and instead promote policies that respect the sovereignty of all nations and prioritize genuine cooperation rather than territorial expansion.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

David Gipson

**SCR 3026****Resolution Urging President to Annex Greenland**

Denmark has made it clear that they will not consider giving Greenland to the United States. Are the next steps threats, which is in the style of Trump? When that doesn't work military action? Again another stunt by our legislature instead of doing the serious work to benefit the people of North Dakota. If done to garner favor with Trump, shows that you are not serious people. You are wasting the time and money of your constituents.

# House Agriculture Committee

## House Concurrent Resolution 3026

Andrew Alexis Varvel

Written Testimony

February 13, 2025

State Capitol

Room 327C Judicial Wing

Chairman Beltz & Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrew Alexis Varvel.

I live in Bismarck.

I oppose House Concurrent Resolution 3026, which calls for the supposedly “peaceful” annexation of Greenland.

Whatever one else thinks about the idea of posting The Ten Commandments in public school cafeterias, the Tenth Commandment remains a good principle to live by.

According to the King James Version of The Bible, the Tenth Commandment from Exodus 20:17 says:

*Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.*

This includes Naboth's vineyard.

This includes Uriah's wife.

And I have a difficult time believing that God has suddenly made an exception for Greenland, Canada, Gaza, or the Panama Canal.

This resolution betrays an ally – a NATO ally.

This resolution betrays the people of Greenland.

Greenland belongs to the people of Greenland.

Greenland does not belong to us.

We, as a state, must not covet Greenland.

So...

Please give House Concurrent Resolution 3026  
a firm **DO NOT PASS** recommendation.

Thank you.

I am open for questions.

Representative Jared Hendrix  
House District 10  
Testimony for HCR 3026

Chair Mike Beltz & Members of the House Agriculture Committee,

The United States has had a long-standing strategic interest in Greenland, beginning in 1868 when Secretary of State William H. Seward explored purchasing it alongside Iceland. Although the U.S. renounced claims to Greenland in 1916 as part of the purchase of the Danish West Indies, World War II renewed American involvement when Denmark allowed U.S. forces to occupy and defend Greenland in 1941. After the war, the U.S. offered to buy Greenland for \$100 million in gold in 1946, but Denmark refused. In 1951, Denmark permitted the establishment of Thule Air Base, solidifying Greenland's role in U.S. defense strategy during the Cold War. Interest resurfaced in 2019 when President Trump proposed buying Greenland, an idea rejected by both Greenland and Denmark. But we should not give up so easily.

Greenland is rich in natural resources, including rare earth elements (REEs) and other critical minerals such as zinc, copper, nickel, cobalt, platinum, lithium, and graphite, which are essential for energy technologies and advanced manufacturing. It has deposits of precious metals like gold and silver, as well as industrial minerals such as coal, iron ore, and uranium. Its vast ice sheet contains approximately 20% of the world's fresh water, making it a potential resource as global water demand rises. Greenland is estimated to have up to 42 million metric tons of rare earth oxides (REOs), potentially representing about 48% of global reserves. These oxides are necessary in electronics, ceramics, glass manufacturing, phosphors, lasers, and catalysts due to their unique optical and magnetic properties. Additionally, 12.1 million metric tons of titanium deposits are crucial for clean energy technologies and lightweight materials used in aerospace and construction. Its 57.1 million metric tons of zirconium can be used in jewelry, alloys and nuclear power. Aluminium and gallium also play key roles in solar panels and wind turbines. Platinum group metals are used in industrial applications such as gas turbines and jet engines. It also has an estimated 17.5 billion barrels of oil and 148 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

Scientifically, Greenland is invaluable for climate research and glaciology. Technological advancements that adapt to extreme conditions are potentially applicable to space exploration and can foster international collaboration. Launching satellites closer to the North Pole can be more effective for certain missions. Polar orbits can benefit Earth observation, weather monitoring, and communication services.

Summer Arctic sea ice is shrinking by 13% per decade. While we do not know yet how long this trend will continue or how cyclical it may be, in the near term this dramatic change is elevating Greenland's strategic importance for both naval operations and commercial shipping. Economically, Greenland is a pivotal location along emerging trans-Arctic shipping routes, including the Northwest Passage and the Transpolar Sea Route, which could revolutionize global maritime trade by offering shorter alternatives to traditional shipping lanes. Militarily, Greenland's significance is amplified by its hosting of crucial facilities like Thule Space Base and its position within the strategically important GIUK Gap. Expanding our presence would enhance missile defense, space surveillance, and monitoring of trans-Arctic shipping routes.

Greenland's resources will become more and more indispensable for battery production, particularly in electric vehicles (EVs) and energy storage systems. As we look towards inevitable technological shifts, and consider needs for existing industries, it is clear that Greenland will play a significant role in the decades and even centuries to come. It is reasonable to assume that other nations will increasingly seek to access Greenland's resources and may employ more aggressive means over time as global resources diminish. Russia, China, and the European Union have all shown interest. With growing competition in the Arctic among global powers, coupled with increasing tensions, it's likely that nations will employ economic investments, diplomatic pressure or potentially more assertive measures to secure these resources and strategic advantages in the coming decades.

Greenland currently functions as an autonomous country within the Kingdom of Denmark, with its own parliament and government. The Greenlandic people have shown a strong desire for self-determination, as evidenced by the 2009 Self-Government Act, which provides a legal pathway to independence. While Greenlanders have not expressed willingness for U.S. annexation, they might reconsider if presented with a compelling case for mutual benefits, such as



significant economic development, improved infrastructure, and enhanced security, while preserving their cultural autonomy and political representation.

Economically, developing Greenland's resources could benefit both Greenlanders and Americans. Annexation would secure U.S. interests in the Arctic, as a counter to Chinese and Russian influence. Greenland's potential resource wealth directly impacts North Dakota's aerospace and other manufacturing. Greenland's glacial rock dust could revitalize depleted soils and North Dakota's agricultural sector could benefit from accessing this resource and developing technologies around its application and distribution.

While seemingly unconventional, HCR 3026 sends a proactive message aligned with both North Dakota's and the United States' economic interests and national security concerns. This resolution signals North Dakota's leadership and foresight in anticipating future resource scarcity and advocating for a proactive approach to secure access to vital materials. Decreasing reliance on foreign entities, particularly China, bolsters national security and economic independence. While recognizing the unusual nature of a state legislature calling for the annexation of foreign territory, this resolution is in our best interest, and passing it will advocate a position of national leadership on the topic.