

**2025 SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**SCR 4026**

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Energy and Natural Resources Committee Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

SCR 4026  
3/6/2025

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to consider studying the feasibility and desirability of establishing a state-owned association for the development and production of oil and gas.

9:00 a.m. Chairman Patten called the meeting to order.

Members present: Chairman Patten, Vice Chairman Kessel, Senators: Beard, Boehm, Enget, Gerhardt, and Van Oosting.

### **Discussion Topics:**

- Investing in Existing ND Companies
- Reconciling against State vs. Company Competition
- Dealing with Losses Due to Oil Prices Decreasing
- ND Rank in Oil Taxes
- Refineries Built in United States
- Increased Capacity for Existing Refineries
- Conflict of Interest in Permitting

9:01 a.m. Senator Magrum, District 8, introduced the bill and testified in favor.

9:11 a.m. Andrew Alexis Varvel, Secretary of Nonpartisan League, testified in favor and submitted testimony #38912.

9:14 a.m. Ron Ness, President, ND Petroleum Council , testified in opposition.

9:24 a.m. Chairman Patten closed the hearing.

*Elizabeth Reiten for Kendra McCann, Committee Clerk*

# Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee

## Senate Concurrent Resolution 4026

Andrew Alexis Varvel

March 6, 2025

9:00AM

North Dakota State Capitol

Peace Garden Room

### Chairman Patten & Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrew Alexis Varvel. I live in Bismarck.

I serve as the Secretary of the Nonpartisan League.

On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, the Nonpartisan League Executive Committee voted to support Senate Concurrent Resolution 4026.

The State Bank and the State Mill and Elevator illustrate how the model of public ownership of a strategic industry can work to the benefit of the people. Senate Concurrent Resolution 4026 calls for an interim study to investigate the feasibility of establishing a state owned association to develop North Dakota's oil and gas.

This is a prudent measure, for it is better to look before you leap.

I request a **DO PASS** for Senate Concurrent Resolution 4026.

Thank you.

I am open for questions from this committee.

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Energy and Natural Resources Committee Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

SCR 4026  
3/7/2025

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to consider studying the feasibility and desirability of establishing a state-owned association for the development and production of oil and gas.

9:25 a.m. Chairman Patten called the meeting to order.

Members present: Chairman Patten, Vice Chairman Kessel, Senators: Beard, Enget, Gerhardt, and Van Oosting.  
Members Absent: Senator Boehm.

### Discussion Topics:

- Committee Action

9:25 a.m. Chairman Patten led committee discussion on bill testimony and funding.

9:28 a.m. Senator Kessel moved a Do Not Pass.

9:28 a.m. Senator Enget seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Dale Patten	Y
Senator Greg Kessel	Y
Senator Todd Beard	Y
Senator Keith Boehm	A
Senator Mark Enget	Y
Senator Justin Gerhardt	Y
Senator Desiree Van Oosting	Y

Motion Passed 6-0-1.

Senator Enget will carry the bill.

9:30 a.m. Chairman Patten closed the hearing.

*Elizabeth Reiten for Kendra McCann, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**SCR 4026 ([25.3101.01000](#))**

**Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Sen. Patten, Chairman)** recommends **DO NOT PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SCR 4026 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This resolution does not affect workforce development.