

1999 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

SCR 4006

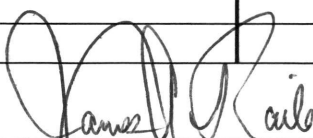
1999 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR 4006

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date January 21, 1999

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	X		5147-END
1		X	0-1492
Committee Clerk Signature 			

Minutes: CHAIRMAN KREBSBACH called the committee to order and opened the hearing on SCR 4006 which is a resolution directing the legislative council to study state agency office space needs to determine the feasibility and desirability of transferring state agencies or state employees to rural areas. SENATOR BILL BOWMAN, primary sponsor of this resolution appeared before the committee to explain the intentions of this proposed study. For many, many years in rural North Dakota we've heard about the out migration of farmers and how hard it is on the main street, the small businesses and all the time this continues to happen. People in other parts of government continue to say well if they are going to lose their population let's take this away from them, let's take this away from them, and let's take this away from them because they really don't need it any more. There is one major change that can change all of this. If we are to give rural people any hope at all. In some of the stronger rural ND areas. There are a lot of rural areas out there that still have hospitals. They still have recreation facilities. They still have a

beautiful climate for people if we can bring people back. What this study will do, it will look at what we can out migrate from urban areas. In other words today because of our communications we have the ability to have people who are sitting in their office right here communicate with their leader right across the room but they can be 200 miles and it can be just as easy as it is from the room that they are in today. Twenty years ago that wouldn't have been possible. That's why I contacted consolidated. You have a copy of their statement here today. I think it is important that you read it. What are we paying for office space here. That is a big key to some of these areas. I think not only can we do the rural communities justice, but we'll save the taxpayers a considerable amount of money. The rural communities are begging to get people to come in. Do you think they are going to have the same office space per foot rent that they are in Bismarck, Grand Forks or whatever? I don't think so. Does this have a big impact to the big city? Not nearly as much as the impact will be to the rural city. SENATOR DEMERS inquired if most of the rural communities have economical office space at this time. SENATOR BOWMAN indicated that he knows he has some economic development people behind him that can answer this. He indicated in traveling he noticed that in almost all the rural communities there are spaces available. They may have to be remodeled or there may be a need for cubicles to make it the way that the people like it. I think they would be happy to work with the state to do that. That is not a problem. If we move a state office, we have to do the same thing locally. I believe the rural communities would make it awfully nice if we had an opportunity to expand their community growth. SENATOR THANE-I admire your enthusiasm and I only have a question, it's not a negative question. If office, first of all are we referring to new office needs or are we referring to existing office needs. Please clarify that. In your study would you be looking at

utilization of the vacated spaces? SENATOR STENEHJEM indicated that he liked this idea, he believes it has a lot of merit. He just hopes that they will follow through with this study and you will make sure that some of these interim meetings take place in Bowman, or Larimore rather than Bismarck or Fargo. SENATOR AARON KRAUTER, District 35, representing four counties in the southwest. He spoke about some personal experiences with technology and how things are exciting in rural North Dakota. Being a farmer and an agricultural producer himself, its discouraging to agriculture, but when he looks at some of the things that are happening out there, there's a lot of diamonds in the rough. The first thing he wanted to mention was that there was a group out of Williston, ND. The UND Center has a program for transcription limited business. You can learn how to speak the medical terms, listen to the recommendations and reports from doctors and transcribe that information at their homes. They receive this information through technology to them and then it's transmitted technologically from them back to the location where they actually work on it. Those kinds of things are happening out there and they are happening with success. The school in Williston trained people in how to do it and the communities are jumping for the opportunity. People want these technology related types of jobs. There were no questions for Senator KRAUTER at this time. Also appearing before the committee to speak in support of SCR 4006 were CAL KLEWIN-Bowman County Development Association, BOB KUDRNA-Adams County Development Corporation, KEN DUKART-Economic Development Coordinator for Roosevelt Country Regional Council serving the southwest 8 counties of North Dakota. JIM HEINRICH-McIntosh County Treasurer, representing the ND County Treasurers Association. His organization is in favor of transferring state agencies to rural communities for a number of reasons. They feel they can provide a

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Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Bill/Resolution Number SCR 4006

Hearing Date January 21, 1999

service in rural areas at no cost to the state. They feel they would have the manpower and the room to do some of these functions that the state agencies do. An example he used was motor vehicle licensing. There were no questions from committee members. No one appeared in neutral position or in opposition to SCR 4006. CHAIRMAN KREBSBACH closed the hearing on SCR 4006. A motion for DO PASS on SCR 4006 was made by SENATOR W. STENEHJEM, seconded by SENATOR DEMERS. ROLL CALL VOTE indicated 7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, and 0 ABSENT OR NOT VOTING. SENATOR THANE volunteered to carry the resolution.

Date: 1/21/99
Roll Call Vote #:

1999 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR 4006

Senate GOVERNMENT AND VETERAN'S AFFAIRS Committee

Subcommittee on _____
or
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass

Motion Made By Sen. W Stenehjem Seconded By Sen. Demers

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
SENATOR KREBSBACH	✓				
SENATOR WARDNER	✓				
SENATOR KILZER	✓				
SENATOR STENEHJEM	✓				
SENATOR THANE	✓				
SENATOR DEMERS	✓				
SENATOR MUTZENBERGER	✓				

Total (Yes) 7 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Sen. Thane

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
January 21, 1999 1:05 p.m.

Module No: SR-13-0976
Carrier: Thane
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SCR 4006: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Krebsbach, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** (7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
SCR 4006 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

1999 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
SCR 4006

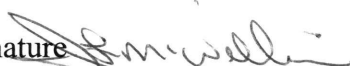
1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR 4006

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 2-5-1999

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1		X	8.7 - 23.8
1		X	50.6 - 54.1
Committee Clerk Signature 			

Minutes: Some of the individuals testifying submit written testimony. When noted please refer to it for more detailed information.

Representative Klein, Chairman of the GVA Committee opened the hearing on February 5, 1999.

Summary of the Bill: Directing the legislative council to study state agency office space needs to determine the feasibility and desirability of transferring state agencies or state employees to rural areas.

Testimony in Favor:

Senator Bowman, Appeared before the committee to introduce the Resolution and submitted written testimony (**please refer to his testimony**). There is a lot of space available in the rural areas and we have no intention of moving agencies out of Bismarck. The point is to stabilize the rural areas.

Representative Klein, Do you have any estimates of the square footage in rural areas?

Bowman, Around 3 to 5 dollars. Some would give you the buildings if you pay the heat and utilities.

Representative Cleary, Can you get people to move to the rural areas?

Bowman, I believe we would be over run with applications.

Senator Heitkamp, I would like to reiterate what Representative Bowman said that some communities would give you the building if the agency would just pay the heat and utilities. The study would take a look at administrative agencies that don't have the volume of people that have to come directly to the office. These types of agencies do not require convenience, so they could be located in the rural areas.

Bob Kudrna, Adam County stated he believes that rural areas such as Hettinger can compete for the information technology field.

Ken DuKart, RCRC-Southwest Economic Development stated if we can get state jobs into the rural areas, then the corporate jobs will follow.

Testimony in Opposition: None.

Committee Action:

Representative Devlin, Made the motion for a Do Pass.

Representative Kroeber, Seconded the motion.

Motion Passes: Do Pass **13-1-1**.

Representative Brekke, Is the carrier for the bill.

Date: 2-5-

Roll Call Vote #: 1

1999 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 4006

House GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS Committee

Subcommittee on _____
or
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken DO PASS

Motion Made By DEVLIN Seconded By KROEBER

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
CHAIRMAN KLEIN	✓		REP. WINRICH	✓	
VICE-CHAIR KLINISKE	✓				
REP. BREKKE	✓				
REP. CLEARY	✓				
REP. DEVLIN	✓				
REP. FAIRFIELD					
REP. GORDER	✓				
REP. GRANDE	✓				
REP. HAAS	✓				
REP. HAWKEN	✓				
REP. KLEMIN		✓			
REP. KROEBER	✓				
REP. METCALF	✓				
REP. THORESON	✓				

Total (Yes) 13 No 1

Absent 1

Floor Assignment BREKKE

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
February 8, 1999 4:20 p.m.

Module No: HR-25-2238
Carrier: Brekke
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SCR 4006: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. Klein, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 1 NAY, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
SCR 4006 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

1999 TESTIMONY
SCR 4006



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January 20, 1999

Senator Bill Bowman:

I am writing in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 4006.

As the General Manager of Consolidated Telephone Cooperative and Consolidated Telcom, Inc., it makes great sense for the State of North Dakota to look at our rural communities to house jobs and occupy office space that will for the most part be much less expensive.

Consolidated and the rest of the Rural Telephone Companies in North Dakota offer the same or in many cases better communication alternatives for their customers. In Consolidated's case, we have over 600 miles of fiber optic cable in place connecting all of our telephone exchanges to the world through a transport company owned by fifteen (15) Independent Telephone Companies called Dakota Carrier Network (DCN).

With DCN as the backbone carrier, Consolidated and the other fifteen Independent Telephone Cooperatives can deliver the latest communication technology to virtually any rural community.

Sincerely,



L. Dan Wilhelmson
 General Manager/CEO
 Consolidated Telephone Cooperative

dw

Consolidated Telephone Cooperative

Consolidated Communications Incorporated

Consolidated Communications Corporation

Consolidated Enterprises Incorporated

Consolidated Cable Vision

Consolidated Communications Networks Incorporated