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ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

4025

2001 SENATE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

SCR 4025

2001 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR 4025

Senate Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date February 15, 2001

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
I	X		55.6-End
I		X	0.0-8.7
Committee Clerk Signature <i>James A. Raile</i>			

Minutes: Chairman Krebsbach opened the hearing on SCR 4025 which is a resolution relating to urging Congress to pass legislation that will lift the embargo on trade with Cuba. **Senator Aaron Krauter**, District 35, prime sponsor of the resolution appeared before the committee to explain the resolution. A copy of his written testimony is attached. **Senator Dever** inquired what the impact of something like this with the Federal Congress. Does something like this, as far as the legislature forwarding our opinion to Congress, does it make some impact? **Senator Krauter** indicated that it makes a big impact. North Dakota's economy is based upon agriculture. One of the commodities that we raise in the state is wheat. People in countries like Cuba need those type of food supplies. Currently we are not allowed to do any of this trade with those countries. A state like North Dakota could have one more market out there and add 10 cents to a bushel in North Dakota. That would probably add another \$10 million in the economy. **Chairman Krebsbach** asked Senator Krauter for his opinion of where Cuba is importing the billion dollars worth of grain from? Senator Krauter indicated that Cuba isn't so much importing it from

someplace else. He thinks the people in Cuba are being limited on the ability and supplies to have those things right now. **Senator T. Mathern**, District 11, indicated he wanted to add an experience that he had over this past year. A number of his colleagues that he had while attending the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University went to Cuba. An issue of the study that they had was understanding the economy but making a recommendation regarding the issue of the embargo. It was interesting in that they came back and there was the debate in the student senate. The proponent of ending the embargo stated that the embargo was assisting Fidel Castro in maintaining power in that this was his way of whipping up anti American sentiment. Castro's power was the embargo and if the embargo was lifted in full they believe that that sentiment. It was the conclusion of these students that the number one issue maintaining Fidel regime would collapse. **Lance Hagen**, with the North Dakota Grain Growers appeared before the committee and indicated that he and his organization support this resolution. There was nothing further. The hearing was closed on SCR 4025. **Chairman Krebsbach** commented on the resolution and it's value to the state of North Dakota. A motion for a Do Pass was made by **Senator C. Nelson**, seconded by **Senator Dever**. Roll Call vote indicated 6 Yeas, 0 Nays, and 0 Absent or Not Voting. **Senator T. Mathern** will carry the bill.

Date: 2/15/01
Roll Call Vote #:

2001 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 511

Senate GOVERNMENT AND VETERAN'S AFFAIRS Committee

Subcommittee on _____
or
 Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken By Pass

Motion Made By Sen. Dever Seconded By Sen. Dever

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Karen Krebsbach, Chr.	✓		Senator Carolyn Nelson	✓	
Senator Dick Dever, Vice-Chr.	✓		Senator Tim Mathern	✓	
Senator Ralph Kilzer	✓				
Senator Rich Wardner	✓				

Total (Yes) 6 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Sen. T. Mathern

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
February 15, 2001 12:36 p.m.

Module No: SR-28-3498
Carrier: T. Mathern
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SCR 4025: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Sen. Krebsbach, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
SCR 4025 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2001 HOUSE GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

SCR 4025

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR 4025

House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date 3/08/01

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	X		1318-2837
3/09/01 (1)	X		2761-3175
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Robin L. Small</i>			

Minutes:

REP. M. KLEIN called the hearing to order, all members were present.

In favor:

SEN. AARON KRAUTER, DISTRICT 35

Please see attached testimony. KRAUTER urges the committee a do pass.

REP. KLEMIN asks if this is to sell grain or credit to Cuba? KRAUTER replies that is correct.

REP. DEVLIN asks if this is going down the same line of foreign policy? KRAUTER replies that this is looking to support Ag. Producers, does not have limitations on trade. REP. DEVLIN has some concerns on opening up trade to Cuba. KRAUTER states that it is not the intention to negatively effect markets in North Dakota. REP. KASPER asks if trade was opened up with Cuba would it be a two way street? KRAUTER explains in terminology.

In favor:

LANCE HAGEN, NDGGA

HAGEN states to the committee that they are in support of this bill, to open up trade with Cuba.

HAGEN believes that this will not hurt the sugar industry in North Dakota.

REP. METCALF questions the food and the medicine that is coming in from Cuba right now, doesn't sugar already come into this country from Cuba? HAGEN replies that he is not sure.

In favor:

BRIAN KRAMER, NDFB

KRAMER states to the committee that the third party financier has really been the problem.

Some kind of quota system is needed. KRAMER thinks the bill is good.

REP. KLEMIN asks for a definition of the third party financier. KRAMER replies that it is anyone other than the US for funds.

REP. DEVLIN states that he is sensitive to the sugar industry and their fears of this. KRAUTER states to the committee that the issue was addressed last year in congress.

Being there was no further testimony in favor or in opposition, the hearing was then closed.

Action was taken on March 9th, 2001. REP. BRUSEGAARD motioned for a DO PASS, seconded by REP. METCALF. The roll call was taken with 12 YES, 3 NO and 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING. The motion carries. The CARRIER of the bill is REP. BRUSEGAARD.

SCR 4025: DO PASS 12-3

CARRIER: REP. BRUSEGAARD

Date: 3/9/01

Roll Call Vote #: 1

2001 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR 4025

House GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS AFFAIRS Committee

Subcommittee on _____

or

Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken No Pass

Motion Made By Brusegaard Seconded By Metcalfe

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
CHAIRMAN KLEIN	✓		REP KROEBER	✓	
VICE CHAIR GRANDE	✓				
REP BELLEW		✓			
REP BRUSEGAARD	✓				
REP CLARK	✓				
REP DEVLIN	✓				
REP HAAS	✓				
REP KASPER		✓			
REP KLEMIN	✓				
REP MEIER		✓			
REP WIKENHEISER	✓				
REP CLEARY	✓				
REP HUNSKOR	✓				
REP METCALF	✓				

Total (Yes) 12 No 3

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Rep. Brusegaard

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
March 9, 2001 12:31 p.m.

Module No: HR-41-5217
Carrier: Brusegaard
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SCR 4025: Government and Veterans Affairs Committee (Rep. M. Klein, Chairman)
recommends DO PASS (12 YEAS, 3 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
SCR 4025 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2001 TESTIMONY

SCR 4025

Testimony to SCR 4025
February 15, 2001

Chairman Krebsbach and members of the Senate Government and Veteran Affairs. For the record I am Aaron Krauter State Senator from District 35, which represents four rural agricultural counties.

Agriculture is the heart of the North Dakota economy. There is no higher priority for many North Dakotans than keeping farmers and ranchers in business. As our farmers and ranchers work their long days in the fields and on the prairies, we must think globally about how our trade policies have affected their agricultural business.

Bad habits are hard to break. A sorry example is the way the federal government continues to embargo sales of food and medicine to nations with despotic leaders. These embargoes do absolutely no good. They hurt the people we are trying to help and they deprive our family farmers of markets they desperately need.

We have no quarrel with economic sanctions against the trouble makers of the world. The United States should take a stand against the governments of countries such as Cuba and Libya, Iran and Iraq, which suppress their own people and foment turmoil elsewhere. When foreign governments are training terrorists or committing blatant violations of human rights then, as a nation, we have a moral duty to act.

It is one thing to stop sales of weapons technology, surveillance devices and deals by which U.S. based corporations enrich the leaders of such nations. It is another thing to entirely withhold the food and medicine that the citizens of these countries need. Embargoes of food and medicine accomplish absolutely nothing. Neither Fidel Castro nor Muammar Qaddafi has ever missed a meal because of a U.S. trade embargo. They have never been denied the medicine they need. In case someone hasn't noticed, they are still in power, despite decades of embargoes against their countries that included food and medicine.

The only people hurt by these policies are the ordinary citizens who suffer greatly under these regimes already and North Dakota Farmers.

SCR 4025 urges Congress to pass legislation that will lift the embargo on trade with Cuba. North Dakota needs open market for our agricultural trade to move freely.

Last year, Senator Dorgan won passage of legislation that ended the 40 year old U.S. embargo on food and medicine sales to Cuba, as well as unilateral U.S. food and medicine embargoes against Iran, Libya, Sudan, and North Korea, new markets with the potential for more the \$6 billion in sales annually. However, congressional foes of any trade with Cuba amended the legislation to prohibit U.S. financing - even private sector financing of sales to Cuba. The practical impact of that change was to keep the \$1 billion Cuban market closed to U.S. farmers.

The key to this resolution is found on line 12, to repeal all restrictions. We need to send a message to Congress that will show support for our farmers and ranchers of North Dakota. I ask for a Do Pass on SCR 4025.

Thank you.