

MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

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ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

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2001 SENATE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

SCR 4030

2001 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SCR 4030

Senate Political Subdivisions Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date February 15, 2001

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1		X	19.6-46.8
3/1/01 2	x		0.0-4.8
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Mary Jo Webster</i>			

Minutes:

The hearing was opened on SCR 4030.

MARY CHRISTENSON, Dakota Resource Council. SENATOR TIM MATHERN: Prime sponsor of this resolution. I see this resolution as addressing two major problems in North Dakota. One being that we have a low volume of recyclable items and we have difficulty in transporting items in such a large state. And this resolution basically suggests we study the possibility of using our present system called Project Safe Send, expand that system to include all recyclable and see if we can address this issue in a comprehensive manner in the state. MARY CHRISTENSON: This bill actually has two parts to it. One of which would be to study the possibilities in expanding the solid waste reduction programs in the state, and the other part of the bill deals specifically with Project Safe Send and Judy Carlson from the Agriculture Department here, she administers that project and will answer any questions that you might have. Technical questions about the program itself. The two parts of this are a little bit different.

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Project Safe Send deals with specifically with agricultural chemicals. The way I understand it, and correctly if I am wrong, they have a traveling program, that goes to different parts of the state and they advertise for people to bring these chemical in. What were suggesting perhaps the communities could benefit from this as well, and people could within the communities, instead of just the farmers could bring in household hazardous waste for this Project Safe Send to deal with. Because, as of right now, in the rural areas in North Dakota, there is no way for people to deal with hazardous waste that they might have. This would include gardening chemicals, any kind of things like that, perhaps garden chemicals that they saved or shouldn't use this particular one anymore in your garden that is considered unsafe for people to store it in their sheds. They don't know what to do with it, or they dispose of it in a unsafe manner. That's what we're thinking of as far as public Safe Send go. Most of the bill, deals specifically with reducing waste and I have included in Linda's testimony some facts that I got from the North Dakota State Dept. of Health about waste issues in North Dakota. One of the big things, the big problems in the state, has been that has come to my attention has been tire disposal. (Reference on tape Meter#23.8) Only 18 % are recycled or used as tire drive fuel in out of state markets. We're just saying help with us in the program that might help individuals like us to deal with waste and help reduce the waste in our landfills. SENATOR WATNE: You said that the program Safe Send is administered by the North Dakota Department of Agriculture. MARY CHRISTENSON: that's correct. SENATOR WATNE: Do you know how, big that program is, how many fe's, how they operate. MARY CHRISTENSON: I think that Judy Carlson can answer those questions. She is the administrator of that program. SENATOR LYSON: In listing to you, I was, trying to figure out if you knew that process of industrial waste in the oil field and I know that in Williams County, we have two industrial waste landfills which are very heavily placed and monitored. I

don't know if that's the only one that you guys looked at something like this to. MARY

CHRISTENSON: I am aware of those types of waste disposal sites, but we do not include those in the study resolution we only included them in the municipal solid waste, landfills. And that would be something else to look at down the road. You know, how those are doing, how they are

being managed. SENATOR LYSON: I would guess that maybe an opening for other industrial wastes, we only right now, its only allowed from the oil field. However, the county commissioners in the Health Department in the last year did give permission for asbestos to be placed in there, against my objections. So that is an area an and that is a well defined process in and I would hope that those people would get involved if your having a study to be into something like this cause it is very knowledgeable about what's going on. MARY

CHRISTENSON: That is a good suggestion. I guess that the spaced then chemicals are taken elsewhere and Judy can tell us where they are, and I believe some of them are actually recycled and reused. REP. MARAGOS: I am one of the cosponsors. I think this is a very important study that would help go a long way in answering some of the questions that we always have arise in this state about solid waste. So I would certainly hope that this committee would give this a

favorable recommendation. SENATOR WATNE: Do you think our Sawyer landfill will be included in this? REP. MARAGOS: That thought had occurred to me and the landfill did have some controversy to it. So I suppose from that standpoint, you know, I mean if we, the more we can learn about these things I think the better off we are, so I don't know that it would negatively impact anything that's' going on out there, but, information is good to have. LINDA WEISS: I

am from rural Belfield, ND. I am also a member of the Dakota Resource Council and co-chair of our affiliate the Badlands Area Resource Council. See written testimony. SENATOR COOK:

Linda, for years, my wife and I recycle glass products. We took them to the recycle bin for glass.

And after about three years of doing that, I found out that they weren't being recycled at all. The recycle bins were just being hauled to the landfill and the reason was the economics of the cost of actually separating the glass or recycling or whatever. If a study was done, would it probably reveal some of the economics that challenge recycle efforts? LINDA WEISS: I believe it would.

I've had an opportunity to visit a recycling place in Minot, and I see that they have a ready market for several of the recyclable materials. SENATOR COOK: Glass being one of them?

LINDA WEISS: Right now its clothing or cloth and paper goods, cardboard. What's variable to the market, what they are able to market that's what keeps them going. I think there is something that we could develop with plastics as well, we're not doing. There is a lot of things with plastics.

SENATOR WATNE: We also do have aluminum cans, but, as I understand there was a study done, and by a group within the Health Department on recycling and that I remember seeing the map at one time where these recycling plants would be located as its divided up; our populations needs based, so on and so forth. I understand there was some quite in depth studies on it to see if it would be cost productive. Do you know anything about those studies that have been done?

LINDA WEISS: No, I do not, I slowly become acquainted with the idea of that, just as there are water sheds, there are waste shed areas. That is something that to be studied like how there might be a need for setting up a satellite system that feeds into a bigger system. JUDY CARLSON:

State Agricultural Department. I am just here to answer any questions you might have about Safe Send. We didn't have any written prepared testimony. SENATOR COOK: Judy, who all can

participate in Safe Send? JUDY CARLSON: Right now anyone can. We have the funding, up until this legislative session have had the funding available to take any pesticides from urban or rural. However, one of the types of chemicals we usually say they have to be pesticides because pesticides and manufacturing fees pay through the HERP PROGRAM, that funds PROJECT

SAFE SEND. There are other household chemicals that do have EPA d numbers that pay into the HERB fund that we don't collect. I think the HERB fund gives back for quite a bit of projects right now. SENATOR COOK: So there maybe some chemicals in my shed that I could not take there? JUDY CARLSON: Yes. That happens at our collection sites. Even farm people bring in other chemicals, they may bring in paint, there is an interest in fluorescent light bulbs to, through, cause Minnesota has program where they collect fluorescent light bulbs and recycle them. I've had farm wife's that clean out their sheds and they come in and our contractor has to pick through what pesticides and what isn't. Then they take the rest home and they are kind of angry, saying they will just dump it in the shelter belt. They spend a lot of effort to clean up stuff, they bring it in, and then we can't take it. SENATOR COOK: If I was to show up with all of my chemicals that I have, and was sent home with chemicals you wouldn't take, what would I do with those items? JUDY CARLSON: Some of them can be legally land filled. SENATOR COOK: Okay. JUDY CARLSON: That's where they will go hopefully they just don't throw them in the ditch on the way in. SENATOR LEE: Could you tell us what the HERP fund is? JUDY CARLSON: The HERP fund is the Environment and Range Protection fund and there is several bills in, usually it is part of our Department of Agriculture budget bill. It was created in 1991. Right now this fee is \$300 per pesticide, paid in every other year. There was a sunset clause in last session so its now, \$350 a biennium per product. It brings in approximately \$2 million sum dollars a biennium. It funds programs like the noxious weed program, minor youth, project safe send, there is a harmonization committee that is looking at getting funding this session. Of those products, that pay in about 80% of them are actually household pesticides including cleaners like Clorox. SENATOR FLAKOLL: There is a number of products that over the years have pulled off or banned. There is no negative ramifications. I mean do you take all

those products if they have been pulled the shelves and said that you can't use this and you need to get of from storage. Does your program take those and are there any sanctions for illegal chemicals that somebody may have in their possession that they want to turn into you? Are they immune from any? JUDY CARLSON: We take any pesticides. It is a very non regulatory program. Actually, if they are "illegal pesticides" just storing them is not illegal, using them is illegal. If its something like DDT you can no longer use it, so if our pesticide inspector saw you using it that would be violation. Bringing into the program, there is no penalties at this point it is entirely free, in fact if we have large quantities our contractor will go on site and pick it up for you at no charge. All of waste is incinerated if its pesticides. SENATOR POLOVITZ: If I brought up something that you would not take back, your telling me then, people probably throw it in the shelter belts right, or anywhere, put it in the garbage can, and the city would put into the garbage can and it still goes out into the landfill. Why doesn't the Health Department say we'll take any of this stuff and the Health Department make the decision as to how it is dispersed or gotten rid off? JUDY CARLSON: Right now the program is administered through the Agricultural Department and this program, the legislation says its agricultural pesticide. The contractors that we use also in other states do household waste collections, they recycle products, they do paint recycling so possible the same contractor are already there. We pay for the mobilization for them to come in the state that we could have them be doing those other things and get a different price for recycling or those other products. The Health Department serves on our State Advisory Board but they don't have any programs right now to deal with those kind of wastes. Some communities do, the city of Fargo has a household recycling program, and they have a permanent facility at this time. As far as people that are small home quantities, sometimes when they budget, depending on who's on site we just take it. I am kind of partial to little old

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ladies if they haul it in, I just throw it in the pesticide waste. But then it all does get incinerated at \$.91 a pound.

Hearing closed on SCR4030.

Committee Discussion:

Senator Cook , it takes a motion...we can certainly do that.

Senator Lee moved for a Do Pass on 4030. Senator Polovitz, 2nd.

Senator Watne: Much of this I believe is being taken care now by the cities. Project Safe Send, does to the rural. I know that the Health Department has done extensive studies. I just don't think this is needed, but that's' my opinion.

Senator Mathern: I guess, when I drive into Fargo and I look at the landfill and hold my nose as I drive by each time and see that growing as fast as the city, I got interested in recycling a couple of years ago and do everything that the city provides. Glass, plastic, paper and all. Its amazing how very little garbage I have to dump out with a compactor to top it off. I think something like this will help to create an awareness. We really need to get the message out. I would be hopeful that it would be beneficial.

Senator Polovitz: Maybe there have been studies, but I think what is needed is to get all these studies together and evaluate them. Bring together all the studies through this resolution, the studies that have been done. The study of the studies.

Senator Lee: Perhaps, in the event that the motion passes I just want to get it on the table.

Whoever is the carrier could check with the Health Department concerning Senator Watne's study and could bring that information to the floor as well, unless you would rather do that before we act on the motion.

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Senator Cook: Is that information important to you as far as making this decision? This is to one I think. We could certainly hold it for a week if we want, or a day. Senator Lee, I withdraw my motion if Senator Polovitz withdraws the 2nd and perhaps the clerk or intern could check with the Health Department concerning whether or not there is a survey that would not be duplicative.

Senator Polovitz: I'll go along with this. Senator Lee: and then maybe we could act on it, later or tomorrow or whatever. No sense on having a long hold on it.

Discussion Closed.

March 1, 2001 Tape 2, Side A Meter #0.0-4.8

Senator Cook opened the committee for discussion on SCR4030. At the end of the discussion the committee made a decision.

Senator Watne moved for a Do Not Pass

Senator Lee- 2nd

Roll call vote: 6 Yeas, 1 Nay, 1 Absent

Carrier: Senator Watne

