

2021 HOUSE TRANSPORTATION

HCR 3019

2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Transportation Committee
Room JW327E, State Capitol

HCR 3019
2/11/2021

A concurrent resolution to consider studying the fiscal and safety impacts of United States Fish and Wildlife Service easements in ND on the Department of Transportation, Department of Agriculture, and counties.

11:08 **Chairman Ruby** opened the hearing.

Attendance

Representatives	
Representative Dan Ruby	P
Representative Tom Kading	P
Representative Rick Becker	P
Representative Cole Christensen	P
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	P
Representative Jared C. Hagert	P
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	P
Representative Terry B. Jones	P
Representative Emily O'Brien	P
Representative Mark S. Owens	P
Representative Bob Paulson	P
Representative Gary Paur	P
Representative Robin Weisz	P
Representative Greg Westlind	P

Discussion Topics:

- US Fish and Wildlife Service easements and construction costs.
- Federal Government share of costs.
- Effort to cancel easements.

Rep. Headland introduction. Oral testimony.

Julie Ellingson, ND Stockmen's Association, spoke in support.

Emily Melhoff, ND Farm Bureau, spoke in support.

Dan Wogsland, ND Grain Growers Association, on ZOOM, supportive testimony # 6356.

11:31 **Chairman Ruby** closed the hearing.

Discussion.

Representative Becker moved a Do Pass and place on the Consent Calendar.

Representative Weisz seconded.

Roll Call Vote

Representatives	Vote
Representative Dan Ruby	Y
Representative Tom Kading	Y
Representative Rick Becker	Y
Representative Cole Christensen	Y
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	Y
Representative Jared C. Hagert	Y
Representative Karla Rose Hanson	Y
Representative Terry B. Jones	Y
Representative Emily O'Brien	Y
Representative Mark S. Owens	Y
Representative Bob Paulson	Y
Representative Gary Paur	Y
Representative Robin Weisz	Y
Representative Greg Westlind	Y

Motion Carried. 14-0-0 **Representative Christensen** carrier.

11:40 Adjourned.

Jeanette Cook, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HCR 3019: Transportation Committee (Rep. D. Ruby, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** and **BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3019 was placed on the Tenth order on the calendar.



6356

**North Dakota Grain Growers Association
Testimony in Support of HCR 3019
House Transportation Committee
February 11, 2021**

Chairman Ruby, members of the House Transportation Committee, for the record my name is Dan Wogsland, Executive Director of the North Dakota Grain Growers Association (NDGGA). NDGGA, through our contracts with the North Dakota Wheat Commission and the North Dakota Barley Council, engages in domestic policy issues on the state and federal level on behalf of North Dakota wheat and barley farmers. I am providing testimony for you today on behalf of NDGGA in support of HCR 3019.

Chairman Ruby, members of the House Transportation Committee, this is a long-needed study regarding the impacts US Fish and Wildlife Service easements have on North Dakota infrastructure and North Dakota taxpayers. One only has to travel Interstate 94 in North Dakota from Bismarck to Fargo to witness first-hand what US Fish and Wildlife Service land and water mismanagement has meant to North Dakota roads; this obvious mismanagement by US Fish and Wildlife Service is found not only on North Dakota interstate highways but it can be witnessed throughout North Dakota highways, county and township roads and even extending to negatively impacting landowners that have the unfortunate experience of having one of these easements on their land or owning land adjacent to them. This forces the North Dakota Department of Transportation, counties, cities and townships to redirect limited resources to address easement mismanagement instead of directing those resources to positively benefit the state and its citizens. Nowhere else would such a scenario exist and it costs everyone.

Chairman Ruby, members of the House Transportation Committee, HCR 3019 is a welcome and needed study for our state. It would be even better if the federal government joined in; I believe the negative impacts found both on the state and federal levels would be staggering. Therefore the North Dakota Grain Growers Association would respectfully request that the House Transportation Committee give HCR 3019 a Do Pass recommendation and would urge the full House to concur.

"You Raise; We Represent"

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2021 SENATE TRANSPORTATION

HCR 3019

2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Transportation Committee Fort Totten Room, State Capitol

HCR 3019
3/18/2021

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to consider studying the fiscal and safety impacts of United States Fish and Wildlife Service easements in North Dakota on the Department of Transportation, Department of Agriculture, and counties.

Chair Clemens calls the meeting to order. Present are Chair Clemens, Vice Chair Fors, Senators Bakke, Conley, Dwyer, D. Larsen. [9:31]

Discussion Topics:

- Road maintenance
- Wetlands
- Land value

Emmery Mehlhoff [9:31], with the ND Farm Bureau, submits testimony #9910 in favor.

Julie Ellingson [9:46], representing the ND Stockman's Association, testifies orally in favor.

Dan Wogsland [9:48], Executive Director of the ND Grain Growers Association, submits testimony #9978 in favor.

Chair Clemens adjourns the public hearing. [9:49]

Senator Dwyer [9:50] motions DO PASS.

Senator Bakke [9:50] seconds.

Senators	Vote
Senator David Clemens	Y
Senator Robert Fors	Y
Senator Cole Conley	Y
Senator Michael Dwyer	Y
Senator Doug Larsen	Y
Senator JoNell Bakke	Y

Motion passes 6-0-0. [9:50]

Senator Dwyer will carry.

Chair Clemens adjourns the meeting. [9:51]

Sheldon Wolf, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HCR 3019: Transportation Committee (Sen. Clemens, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3019 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

Senate Transportation Committee – HCR 3019

Emmery Mehlhoff, NDFB Public Policy Liaison

March 18, 2021

Chairman Clemens and members of the committee,

My name is Emmery Mehlhoff and I represent the North Dakota Farm Bureau. I am testifying in support of HCR 3019.

NDFB applauds Representative Headland and the other sponsors for authoring HCR 3019 to consider the impacts of Fish and Wildlife Easements on ND infrastructure. NDFB has had long-standing policy concerned with the effects of perpetual easements.

US Fish and Wildlife notoriously places its interests above the safety and financial interests of North Dakota. Regulations imposed by US Fish and Wildlife unduly burdens ND political subdivisions and delays improvements to projects during important construction times of the year.

In recent years, wet conditions across ND have increased the size of many of the wetlands under US Fish and Wildlife control. Poor management of these lands has cost counties and townships thousands of dollars in road maintenance. We hope the Federal Government will also take up this very important study.

NDFB urges the committee to give HCR 3019 a Do Pass recommendation.

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#9978

**North Dakota Grain Growers Association
Testimony in Support of HCR 3019
Senate Transportation Committee
March 18, 2021**

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