

DRC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
Friday, March 20, 2009

Action in the past week:

- DRC Clean Electricity Task Force member Bob White from Emerado testified before the Senate Natural Resources Committee in the neutral position on **HCR 3029**, which would urge the EPA not to regulate greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act; and **HCR 3030**, which would urge Congress to use common sense when enacting climate change legislation. Sponsor Rep. Belter brought more hog house amendments for 3030, which made testimony a challenge.
- **SCR 4019 NAIS Bill:** DRC member Jeri Lynn Bakken of Lemmon and Staff Cindy Klein, Dickinson, testified before the House Agriculture Committee in support of **SCR 4019**, A Senate Concurrent Resolution urging Congress to examine carefully the known and potential impacts of implementing a National Animal Identification System (NAIS) The resolution was introduced at the request of DRC. Member Randolph Nodland of Dunn Center also attended the hearing. Resolution was passed on the House floor and moves on to Governor Hoeven's desk.
- **HB 1543 local foods bill**, Introduced by MVRC, was passed in the Senate 47-0. It will now go back to the House Ag Committee for concurrence on the Senate amendments.
- **SB 2411 PSC oversight of generation**, Failed to pass the House after receiving a 10-2 "do not pass" recommendation from the House Natural Resources Committee. It would have required the PSC to site any electrical generation facility 25 MW or more. The threshold is currently at 100 MW. DRC was the only entity to support this bill.
- **SB 2352 Energy Building Codes**, was changed from its original version of basically removing requirements to follow energy codes in residential construction to requiring that energy conservation standards be followed and passed the House 93-0. DRC had opposed the original bill and suggested amendments. We approve this amendment.
- **SB 2427 Geothermal tax credit**, Received a 10-2 "do not pass" recommendation from the House Finance and Taxation Committee, because it is identical to HB 1277, which has already passed the House and the Senate. The bill would have enabled a tax credit on the short form for geothermal equipment installation. DRC supported these bills.
- **SCR 4020 Fracking exemption**, Got a 12-0 "do pass" recommendation from the House Natural Resources Committee, despite DRC staff Cindy Klein's compelling testimony in opposition. The resolution urges Congress to preserve the exemption of hydraulic fracturing from the provisions of the Safe Water Drinking Act and not to enact legislation that removes the exemption for hydraulic fracturing. The resolution passed on the House floor and now moves on to the desk of Governor Hoeven.
- **SB 2223 transportation pilot project**, was amended by the House Transportation Committee and the amendments adopted by the House. The bill would require the state Department of Transportation to develop a public transportation pilot project. It will now go back the Senate for agreement on the amendments.
- **HB 1338 which started out as the Glassheim landfill bill**, but has been amended into a study of waste management and landfill siting, passed the Senate 46-0. It will now return to the House for concurrence with the amendments. DRC took no position.
- **SB 2417, first a bill to study the feasibility of a glass recycling plant**, and now a bill to study waste reduction through recycling programs and the possibility of landfill methane processing for power generation, passed the House 91-2. It will now go back the Senate for agreement on the amendments.

Action in the coming week:

There are no hearings March 23-27 on bills we are tracking.