

DRC LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MARCH 27, 2009

Action in the past week:

The following bills passed the Senate:

- **HCR 3044 Wind rights study**, directs the legislative council to study the allocation of wind rights including aspects of spacing, noise and ownership of wind rights.
- **HCR 3028 Biotech**, urges Congress to support beneficial uses of biotechnology.

The following bills passed the House:

- **SCR 4019 NAIS resolution** Introduced at DRC's request, this resolution, urges Congress and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to examine the impacts to producers of implementing a national animal ID system and to encourage voluntary participation in the program.
- **SCR 4020 Fracing 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. DRC opposed this resolution because the exemption allows the contamination of groundwater. It passed as amended in the House.

Other actions:

- **SCR 4015 Former externalities resolution**, received a 13-0 "do pass" recommendation from the House Natural Resources Committee and now goes to the floor of the House. Originally introduced at the request of DRC, the first version of this bill directed the Legislative Council to study the potential impact on the state's utility ratepayers and to the state's renewable electricity generation potential of the law preventing the PSC from considering the costs of externalities (i.e. carbon dioxide regulations) when siting and setting rates for electrical generation. It was amended at the request of the Lignite Energy Council. In its engrossed form it would direct the legislative council to study impacts of federal and regional cap and trade systems and Minnesota's Next Generation Act.
- **SB 2438 "Sustainably grown in North Dakota" bill**, was amended by the House Agriculture Committee. It creates a promotional program: Sustainably grown in North Dakota, the parameters of which are so vague that most practices would qualify, including genetically engineered products. It would create a commission to oversee the program and allow the commission to accept money and gifts which would be given to the state Ag Commissioner for the operations of the program.
- **HCR 3045 Severed Mineral Rights**, was amended in the Senate Natural Resources Committee. The resolution directs the legislative council to study issues related to severed and abandoned mineral rights. It was amended to include ways to reduce the discounted price for ND oil.

Action in the coming week:

There are no hearings on bills that DRC is tracking.