

Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly, State of North Dakota, begun in the Capitol in the City of Bismarck, on Tuesday, the fifth day of January, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4020
(Senators Krauter, T. Mathern, Thompson)
(Representatives Lundgren, Metcalf, Nowatzki)

A concurrent resolution urging Congress to assist farmers by removing or restricting the use of trade sanctions as they apply to agricultural products, by taking advantage of the export enhancement program, by removing the cap on marketing loans, and by reforming crop insurance so that farmers experiencing multiyear disasters could have access to adequate coverage.

WHEREAS, farm families and rural communities are suffering an economic downturn similar to the farm crisis of the 1980s; and

WHEREAS, farmers in this state have had to contend with prolonged periods of disastrous weather and crop disease; and

WHEREAS, farmers in this state are experiencing declining crop insurance coverage, thereby further reducing their ability to mitigate against disasters; and

WHEREAS, the 1996 farm bill replaced the previous system of farm income protection with a set of fixed, but declining, payments unrelated to commodity prices and capped commodity marketing loan rates; and

WHEREAS, removing the cap on the marketing loans and extending the loan terms would provide a way to channel much-needed financial resources to farmers, would protect farm prices without distorting the market, and would provide farmers with market flexibility; and

WHEREAS, prohibiting the use of unilateral economic sanctions that hinder the export of agricultural products would reduce financial harm to farmers in this state;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

That the Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to assist farmers by removing or restricting the use of trade sanctions as they apply to agricultural products, by taking advantage of the export enhancement program, by removing the cap on marketing loans, and by reforming crop insurance so that farmers experiencing multiyear disasters could have access to adequate coverage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, the chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 1999,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State