

Fifty-seventh
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

**ENGROSSED SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 4026**

Introduced by

Senators Krauter, Heitkamp

1 A concurrent resolution urging Congress to carefully examine United States agricultural policy
2 with a view to addressing trade and export enhancement issues, adequate loan rates for all
3 commodities, and any other issues or provisions that would restore income protection and
4 prosperity for this country's farmers.

5 **WHEREAS**, the prices for many commodities grown by farmers in this state have for
6 several years been at historically low levels; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the prices received by farmers for their commodities are often lower than
8 the actual cost of production; and

9 **WHEREAS**, emergency government assistance payments to farmers in this state have
10 over the last three years exceeded \$1 billion; and

11 **WHEREAS**, in 1996, government subsidies accounted for 13 percent of total farm
12 income; and

13 **WHEREAS**, in 1999, government subsidies accounted for 42 percent of total farm
14 income; and

15 **WHEREAS**, statistics released by the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute at
16 the University of Missouri indicate that if the current agricultural policy is not changed, net farm
17 income will by the year 2009 fall to \$37 billion, which is \$17 billion less than the 1996 level; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the European Union assists its farmers through high-support prices and
19 generous direct payments, which result in prosperous rural areas and a vibrant agricultural
20 economy; and

21 **WHEREAS**, this country's agricultural policy frequently fails to provide adequate
22 protection from market downturns;

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

1 That the Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to
2 carefully examine United States agricultural policy with a view to addressing trade and export
3 enhancement issues, adequate loan rates for all commodities, and any other issues or
4 provisions that would restore income protection and prosperity for this country's farmers; and

5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this
6 resolution to the President of the United States, the majority and minority leaders of the United
7 States Senate and the House of Representatives, the chairman of the Senate Agriculture
8 Committee, the chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, and to each member of the
9 North Dakota Congressional Delegation.