

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3022

Introduced by

Representatives Drovdal, Hanson, Porter

Senators Lyson, Wardner

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the use of incentive programs  
2 in North Dakota as a way of keeping elk in the state and providing increased opportunities for  
3 landowners, hunters, and the general public.

4 **WHEREAS**, on at least two separate occasions within the last ten years, "surplus" elk  
5 have been exported from the state of North Dakota; and

6 **WHEREAS**, under current elk management regulations, the vast majority of the people  
7 of North Dakota have only a once-in-a-lifetime chance of getting a permit to hunt elk within the  
8 state; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the strong demand for elk permits was clearly evident in the year 2000  
10 when there were 11,951 applications received by the Game and Fish Department and only 204  
11 permits made available; and

12 **WHEREAS**, exportation of elk from the state denies our residents the future opportunity  
13 to hunt, observe, and otherwise benefit from these majestic animals; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the elk population of the South Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park  
15 periodically exceeds acceptable carrying capacity based upon National Park Service guidelines,  
16 thus forcing a determination of where to translocate "surplus" animals; and

17 **WHEREAS**, there are tens of thousands of acres of public land in North Dakota with  
18 suitable habitat to which "surplus" elk could be translocated; and

19 **WHEREAS**, there exists a memorandum of understanding between the National Park  
20 Service, the Game and Fish Department, and other agencies that gives the Game and Fish  
21 Department the first option to accept management of said "surplus" elk; and

22 **WHEREAS**, there are a number of states that have designed and implemented  
23 custom-tailored programs with incentives to facilitate acceptable solutions to wildlife  
24 management issues such as the "surplus" elk issue in North Dakota; and

1           **WHEREAS**, the people of North Dakota strongly value their hunting heritage, as  
2   evidenced by an overwhelming 80 percent approval of the recent amendment to the  
3   Constitution of North Dakota related to that heritage;

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

6           That the Legislative Council study the use of incentive programs implemented in other  
7   states that would allow the retention of "surplus" elk and also benefit other wildlife species,  
8   incentive programs to enhance landowner tolerance of wildlife and to provide economic benefit  
9   opportunities to landowners while increasing access to private land for public hunting, and  
10   effectiveness of incentive programs to foster a spirit of cooperation between landowners,  
11   sportsmen, and regulatory agencies in collaborative wildlife management efforts; and

12           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Council report its findings and  
13   recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to  
14   the Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly.