

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4023

Introduced by

Senators Christmann, Bowman, Solberg, Wanzek

Representatives Boehm, Nelson

1 A concurrent resolution urging Congress to monitor the anticompetitive conditions in the grain
2 and meatpacking industries and to take whatever action necessary to ensure that the
3 consequences of such anticompetitive conditions do not further harm producers and
4 consumers.

5 **WHEREAS**, grain industry consolidations, such as that involving Cargill, Incorporated,
6 and Continental Grain Company, have left a single entity controlling more than 40 percent of all
7 United States corn exports, 33 percent of all soybean exports, and at least 20 percent of all
8 wheat exports; and

9 **WHEREAS**, meat industry mergers have left the three largest meatpackers, IBP,
10 Cargill's Excel Corporation, and ConAgra's Monfort, controlling almost 80 percent of the cattle
11 slaughter market; and

12 **WHEREAS**, IBP, which has over \$14 billion in annual sales, is now set to merge with
13 Tyson Foods, Incorporated; and

14 **WHEREAS**, after the proposed merger, Tyson Foods, Incorporated, will have annual
15 sales in excess of \$23 billion; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the proposed merger of Tyson Foods, Incorporated, and IBP will create a
17 company that has a major global presence with unparalleled ability to develop innovative food
18 products and market them successfully through international distribution channels; and

19 **WHEREAS**, consolidation in the meatpacking and grain industries allows for a reduction
20 in prices paid to producers and an increase in the prices required of consumers; and

21 **WHEREAS**, consolidation in the meatpacking and grain industries leads to extensive
22 scale economies and the replacement of small high-cost operations with larger and more
23 efficient ones; and

24 **WHEREAS**, all producers and consumers need to understand the effects that
25 anticompetitive practices have on their lives;

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

3 That the Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to
4 monitor the anticompetitive conditions in the grain and meatpacking industries and to take
5 whatever action necessary to ensure that the consequences of such anticompetitive conditions
6 do not further harm producers and consumers; and

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