

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4051

Introduced by

Senators Wanzek, Klein, Solberg

Representatives Boehm, Nicholas, Severson

(Approved by the Delayed Bills Committee)

1 A concurrent resolution urging Congress to take any and all measures necessary to guard
2 against the spread of all livestock diseases, including hoof and mouth disease and bovine
3 spongiform encephalopathy, and to encourage aggressive efforts on the part of other countries
4 with a view to eradicating these diseases with all possible celerity.

5 **WHEREAS**, hoof and mouth disease is a contagious febrile disease affecting
6 cloven-hooved animals; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the disease is characterized by a sudden rise in temperature, followed by
8 an eruption of blisters in the mouth, on areas of tender skin such as the udder, and on the feet;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS**, with this disease, eating becomes difficult and painful, significant weight
11 loss is experienced, significant decrease in milk production is experienced, and lameness
12 generally occurs, as does death among younger animals; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the United States has experienced nine distinct epizootics, the most
14 serious of which occurred in 1914 which invaded 22 states and the District of Columbia, and the
15 latest of which occurred in California in 1929; and

16 **WHEREAS**, while considerable progress has been made toward developing an effective
17 vaccine against hoof and mouth disease, the cost of vaccinating all susceptible animals
18 remains prohibitive; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the vaccination of all susceptible animals will not eradicate hoof and mouth
20 disease; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the slaughter of all exposed animals is the only presently effective
22 countermeasure to hoof and mouth disease; and

23 **WHEREAS**, 395 outbreaks of hoof and mouth disease have been confirmed in
24 European countries as of March 20, 2001; and

1 **WHEREAS**, an outbreak of hoof and mouth disease in the United States would cause
2 billions of dollars worth of losses to farmers and ranchers; and

3 **WHEREAS**, since 1996, evidence has been increasing for a causal relationship
4 between ongoing outbreaks in European countries of a disease in cattle called bovine
5 spongiform encephalopathy, commonly known as BSE or mad cow disease, and a disease in
6 humans called new variant Cruetzfeldt-Jakob disease; and

7 **WHEREAS**, bovine spongiform encephalopathy and new variant Cruetzfeldt-Jakob are
8 invariably fatal brain diseases with incubation periods that are measured in years; and

9 **WHEREAS**, as of November 2000, more than 177,500 cases of bovine spongiform
10 encephalopathy have been confirmed in the United Kingdom; and

11 **WHEREAS**, this outbreak is believed to have been caused by feeding sheep meat and
12 bone meal to cattle and the outbreak is believed to have been amplified by the feeding of
13 rendered bovine meat and bone meal to calves; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the United States
15 Department of Agriculture has not detected bovine spongiform encephalopathy in the United
16 States, despite active surveillance efforts since May 1990; and

17 **WHEREAS**, federal, state, and local governmental entities must work with each other
18 and their international counterparts to ensure the continuation of a disease-free food supply, the
19 health of our citizens, and the economic health of our livestock sector;

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

22 That the Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to
23 take any and all measures necessary to guard against the spread of all livestock diseases,
24 including hoof and mouth disease and bovine spongiform encephalopathy, and to encourage
25 aggressive efforts on the part of other countries with a view to eradicating these diseases with
26 all possible celerity; and

27 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this
28 resolution to the Secretary of Agriculture, the chairmen of the Senate and House Agriculture
29 Committees, and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.