

**Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 9, 2001**

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4051
(Senators Wanzek, Klein, Solberg)
(Representatives Boehm, Nicholas, Severson)
(Approved by the Delayed Bills Committee)

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

WHEREAS, foot and mouth disease is a contagious febrile disease affecting cloven-hooved animals; and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the vaccination of all susceptible animals will not eradicate foot and mouth disease; and

WHEREAS, the slaughter of all exposed animals is the only presently effective countermeasure to foot and mouth disease; and

WHEREAS, 395 outbreaks of foot and mouth disease have been confirmed in European countries as of March 20, 2001; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, federal, state, and local governmental entities must be prepared to address and counter not only the inadvertent spread of foot and mouth disease but also the intentional dissemination of this and similar diseases by individuals or groups that zealously oppose the continuation of the livestock industry;

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the United States Attorney General, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the chairmen of the Senate and House Agriculture Committees, 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 _____, 2001,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State