

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4012

Introduced by

Senators Every, Mathern

1 A concurrent resolution establishing an official state wind power development objective of
2 10,000 megawatts of installed turbine capacity to be achieved by the year 2020 and directing all
3 state departments, agencies, and commissions to adopt this official objective for planning and
4 policy development purposes.

5 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota ranks first among the states in commercially exploitable wind
6 resource; and

7 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota lags behind many other states in wind power development
8 and now ranks 20th among the states in the development of wind power; and

9 **WHEREAS**, in 1999 the Governor and Legislature of Texas, as the second-ranked wind
10 resource state, adopted a policy goal of installing 2,000 megawatts of renewable energy
11 capacity by the year 2009, and that state has subsequently enjoyed over \$1 billion in wind
12 power investment and added, on average, 2.5 megawatts of installed wind turbine capacity
13 daily in 2001; and

14 **WHEREAS**, a United States Department of Energy initiative aims to derive 5 percent of
15 national electricity consumption from wind by the year 2020; and

16 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota's proportional share of the 5 percent national wind energy
17 goal, based on the state's wind resource potential, is 9,394 megawatts of installed wind turbine
18 capacity; and

19 **WHEREAS**, wind power development in North Dakota proportionate to the state's share
20 of the national wind resource would result in billions of dollars of new capital investment and
21 hundreds of millions of dollars in land lease rentals, taxes, ancillary business development, and
22 other critical economic development benefits to rural communities throughout the state; and

23 **WHEREAS**, those states that develop their wind resource first will benefit most from
24 development of other forms of power production to "firm" intermittent wind power and to secure
25 the necessary infrastructure to transport and market their wind power production; and

1 **WHEREAS**, planning for transmission capacity to export only 1,500 to 3,000 megawatts
2 of electricity may preclude the opportunity to export a greater amount of energy commensurate
3 with the state's wind resource; and

4 **WHEREAS**, wind turbines have a life expectancy of over 25 years and will likely be
5 replaced after initial wind turbines become obsolete, thus providing continued economic
6 benefits for decades into the future; and

7 **WHEREAS**, states with very large-scale wind power production will capture a major
8 share of the future multibillion dollar national and international environmental credit trading
9 market; and

10 **WHEREAS**, states with very large-scale wind power production will be positioned for
11 leadership in fueling a future hydrogen economy and capitalizing on the most significant
12 industrial transformation since the advent of the internal combustion engine; and

13 **WHEREAS**, formally setting and committing to a wind power development objective is
14 the vital first step in sound state and federal policy development, marshalling public and private
15 resources, and planning adequately for the required infrastructures;

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

18 That the Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly establishes an official state wind power
19 objective of 10,000 megawatts of installed turbine capacity to be achieved by the year 2020 and
20 directs all state departments, agencies, and commissions to adopt this official objective for
21 planning and policy development purposes; and

22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this
23 resolution to the Governor, each department and agency head, and each state board and
24 commission.