

**Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 7, 2003**

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3055
(Representatives Mueller, DeKrey, Gulleson, Herbel, Kreidt)
(Senator Urlacher)

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the patterns of migration from rural to urban areas experienced by this state and by other Midwestern states and explore various opportunities for revitalizing and strengthening rural communities, including new initiatives and reforms of existing policies, so that our rural communities can attract and be home to citizens of all ages.

WHEREAS, our state's population continues to leave the rural areas in favor of urban areas; and

WHEREAS, 36.9 percent of this state's population now resides in the easternmost counties--those that border the Red River--and one out of every five North Dakotans now resides in Cass County; and

WHEREAS, during the 1990s, only six of this state's 53 counties showed any growth in population and only Benson, Burleigh, Cass, Rolette, and Sioux Counties showed any increase in children under age 18; and

WHEREAS, in order to stem the tide of migration from the rural areas of this state and create a viable future for rural communities, consideration must be given to making critical investments in rural community development; and

WHEREAS, agriculture alone cannot revitalize rural communities and nonfarm strategies for small business development must also be explored;

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

That the Legislative Council study the patterns of migration from rural to urban areas experienced by this state and by other Midwestern states and explore various opportunities for revitalizing and strengthening rural communities, including new initiatives and reforms of existing policies, so that our rural communities can attract and be home to citizens of all ages; and

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

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2003,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State