

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

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3019
(Representatives Nelson, Glassheim, Headland, Nicholas)
(Senators Flakoll, Krauter)

A concurrent resolution urging the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will allow United States citizens to freely travel to the Republic of Cuba.

WHEREAS, in response to the communist revolution in Cuba, the United States imposed economic sanctions on the Republic of Cuba in 1962; and

WHEREAS, the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000 reauthorized the direct commercial cash-only sales of agricultural products, food, and medicine to the Republic of Cuba; and

WHEREAS, many of the primary commodities produced in North Dakota are sought for import by the Republic of Cuba; and

WHEREAS, a study conducted by Texas A&M University estimated North Dakota would rank ninth of the 50 states in the nation in terms of sales of agricultural and food product shipments to the Republic of Cuba with projected sales of up to \$37.8 million per year and employment of up to 1,010 people; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota's participation in the Cuban market would not have been possible without the foresight and market promotion efforts of the North Dakota Farm Bureau; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture anticipates the Republic of Cuba will rise from a ranking of 180th in 2000 to become the 33rd most important purchaser of agricultural and food product purchases from United States-based companies; and

WHEREAS, Cuban government officials indicate they expect food imports from the United States to total \$950 million in 2003 and to reach \$1.4 billion annually by 2005 or 2006; and

WHEREAS, United States citizens are prohibited from traveling to the Republic of Cuba for recreational purposes, thereby inhibiting opportunities for further trade expansion with the Republic of Cuba due to its financial shortfall;

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

That the Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will allow United States citizens to freely travel to the Republic of Cuba; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the United States Senate and House of Representatives minority and majority leaders and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

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