

Fifty-eighth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED HOUSE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION NO. 3010

Introduced by

Representatives Gulleason, Amerman, Drovdal, Kempenich

Senators Bowman, Heitkamp

1 A concurrent resolution urging Congress to require the United States Department of Agriculture  
2 Forest Service to implement a management plan that supports the right of North Dakota  
3 ranchers to graze their traditional numbers of livestock in the national grasslands and that  
4 allows the mineral resources within the national grasslands to be developed in a reasonable  
5 manner.

6 **WHEREAS**, 17 national grasslands extend east from the Rocky Mountains to north  
7 central Texas and three additional national grasslands extend west from the Rocky Mountains  
8 in the Great Basin states of Oregon, California, and Idaho; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the state of North Dakota is home to three national grasslands - the Cedar  
10 River National Grassland, the Sheyenne National Grassland, and the Little Missouri National  
11 Grassland; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the Cedar River National Grassland consists of 6,700 acres; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the Sheyenne National Grassland consists of 70,180 acres of federal land  
14 associated with 64,769 acres of privately owned land located in Ransom and Richland  
15 Counties and supplies seasonal forage for approximately 80 ranching operations; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the Little Missouri National Grassland, which consists of 1,028,051 acres,  
17 is the largest and most northern grassland in the nation and supplies seasonal forage for more  
18 than 467 ranching operations; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the national grasslands are federal lands administered by the United  
20 States Department of Agriculture Forest Service; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service is charged with  
22 administering almost 4,000,000 acres in a fashion that sustains grassland ecosystems while  
23 allowing for the production of various goods and services, and supporting and maintaining rural  
24 economies and lifestyles; and

1           **WHEREAS**, the most recent management plan promulgated by the United States  
2 Department of Agriculture Forest Service would result in a potentially major reduction of grazing  
3 in the national grasslands located in this state, thereby resulting in a devastating loss to the  
4 fragile economy of these rural areas of North Dakota and an economic loss to residents of the  
5 counties; and

6           **WHEREAS**, 30 percent of North Dakota's oil and gas wells, which produce 36 percent  
7 of the crude oil supply for the Tesoro refinery in Mandan, are located within the Little Missouri  
8 National Grassland; and

9           **WHEREAS**, oil and gas exploration and production and related activities have  
10 historically accounted for 58 percent of the economy of the four North Dakota counties  
11 comprising the Dakota Prairie Grasslands; and

12           **WHEREAS**, the proposed management plan will eliminate or restrict access to  
13 234,460 acres of the 992,870 acres in the grasslands, making 24 percent of the national  
14 grasslands virtually off limits for oil and gas exploration and development, resulting in the loss  
15 of additional jobs and further damage to the economies of the state as a whole and the local  
16 communities;

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

19           That the Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to  
20 require the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service to implement a  
21 management plan that supports the right of North Dakota ranchers to graze their traditional  
22 numbers of livestock in the national grasslands and that allows the mineral resources within the  
23 national grasslands to be developed in a reasonable manner; and

24           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this  
25 resolution to the President of the United States, the chief of the United States Department of  
26 Agriculture Forest Service, and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.