

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

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3009
(Representatives Kempenich, D. Johnson, Froelich)
(Senators Bowman, Flakoll, Klein)

A concurrent resolution urging Congress to provide sufficient emergency natural disaster assistance for farmers and ranchers.

WHEREAS, natural disasters can take many forms, including drought, excessive moisture, hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, excessive heat, and insect devastation; and

WHEREAS, natural disasters are a constant threat to America's farmers and ranchers and can severely hurt even the best run agricultural operations; and

WHEREAS, natural disasters devastated United States agricultural producers in 2001 and 2002; and

WHEREAS, farmers and ranchers need more disaster assistance than is available under current programs to pay all or part of the production costs incurred during the disaster years, to pay essential family living expenses, to reorganize farming and ranching operations, and to refinance certain agricultural debts; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota state university estimated that North Dakota producers incurred \$168 million in net crop losses and \$55 million in direct livestock losses due to drought conditions in 2002; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota state university estimated that this state has incurred more than \$866 million in direct and indirect economic losses due to drought conditions in 2002; and

WHEREAS, passing emergency natural disaster assistance is the single-most important action that the United States Congress can take for farmers, ranchers, and rural communities;

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 to provide sufficient emergency natural disaster assistance for farmers and ranchers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, 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