

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4018

Introduced by

Senators Cook, O'Connell, Stenehjem

Representatives Keiser, R. Kelsch, S. Meyer

1 A concurrent resolution urging the Federal Railroad Administration to establish rules on the
2 implementation of remote control locomotive technology.

3 **WHEREAS**, remote control locomotives are trains operated electronically by an
4 individual not physically occupying the cab and only recently have been introduced in the
5 United States; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the Federal Railroad Administration, as the federal safety enforcement
7 agency for the railroad industry, has the paramount responsibility to ensure the safety of the
8 general public as well as railroad workers; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the Federal Railroad Administration has permitted the introduction of
10 remote control technology, has issued only nonbinding guidelines for the operation of remote
11 control locomotives, and has allowed the railroads to certify individuals to operate remote
12 control locomotives after the minimal training of only 80 hours; and

13 **WHEREAS**, this minimal testing and training on the part of remote control locomotive
14 operators and the experimental nature of remote control technology has raised serious
15 concerns throughout the country about the safety of remote control locomotives, evidenced by
16 regulations passed by numerous cities and counties; and

17 **WHEREAS**, state governments have an interest in rail safety as well as in promoting the
18 prudent introduction of new technologies into use and the security of all facets of our nation's
19 transportation system must be closely supervised and regulated due to increased and
20 unpredictable terrorist threats;

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

23 That the Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly urges the Federal Railroad Administration to
24 establish rules on the implementation of remote control locomotive technology; and

- 1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this
- 2 resolution to the administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration, the Secretary of the
- 3 United States Department of Transportation, and to each member of the North Dakota
- 4 Congressional Delegation.