

**Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 4, 2005**

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4017
(Senators Thane, Lindaas, Tallackson)
(Representatives Belter, Wall, Williams)

A concurrent resolution urging Congress not to ratify the Central American Free Trade Agreement until Congress can guarantee the citizens of this state and this country that the domestic sugar industry will not suffer economic harm as a result of the agreement's provisions.

WHEREAS, the Central American Free Trade Agreement, also known as the CAFTA, is a proposed agreement between the United States and the Central American nations of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, and Nicaragua; and

WHEREAS, the office of the United States Trade Representative termed the CAFTA "a historic agreement that will eliminate tariffs and trade barriers and expand regional opportunities for the workers, manufacturers, consumers, farmers, ranchers, and service providers of all the countries"; and

WHEREAS, the CAFTA would immediately raise Central American sugar exports, thereby jeopardizing most of the sugar-producing regions in this country, including the Red River Valley and western North Dakota in this state; and

WHEREAS, the sugar beet industry provides income to many residents and infuses capital into the local, regional, and state economies; and

WHEREAS, the CAFTA will cause a significant reduction in the income of this state's sugar beet producers;

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

That the Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States not to ratify the Central American Free Trade Agreement until Congress can guarantee the citizens of this state and this country that the domestic sugar industry will not suffer economic harm as a result of the agreement's provisions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the United States Trade Representative, each member of the Montana Congressional Delegation, any member of the Minnesota Congressional Delegation who serves constituents along the border between North Dakota and Minnesota, and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2005,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State