

**Sixtieth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Wednesday, January 3, 2007**

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3005
(Representatives Froelich, Brandenburg, Kerzman, Kretschmar)
(Senators Erbele, Krauter)

A concurrent resolution urging Congress to pass an agricultural disaster relief package.

WHEREAS, weather-related disasters devastated United States agriculture in 2005 and 2006; and

WHEREAS, during 2005, over 1,000,000 acres could not be planted because of weather-related disasters, hundreds of thousands of acres that were planted were lost because of excessive rainfall, 78 percent of all counties were declared by the United States Department of Agriculture to be primary or contiguous disaster areas, and there has been no disaster assistance for those who lost all or a large part of their 2005 farm income; and

WHEREAS, 2006 was declared by United States Department of Agriculture meteorologists to be one of the worst droughts in the nation's history, preceded only by the dust bowl of the 1930s and the prolonged drought of the 1950s; and

WHEREAS, during 2006, 71 percent of all counties were declared by the United States Department of Agriculture to be primary or contiguous disaster areas and south central North Dakota was at the epicenter of this devastation; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture drought data suggests that 2006 disaster assistance needs will be in the \$3 billion to \$4 billion range; and

WHEREAS, the economic pain that results from weather-related disasters does not end at the farm gate but permeates every storefront of every main street in every community in rural areas affected by weather-related disasters and must be addressed through the immediate passage of an agricultural disaster relief package; and

WHEREAS, the very practical and immediate needs of agricultural producers and rural communities should not be ignored and must be addressed before irreparable economic harm comes to tens of thousands of agricultural producers, their families, and main street businesses;

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

That the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to recognize that the weather-related disasters of 2005 and 2006 have caused economic devastation on the farms, the ranches, and the main streets of rural America and to take all steps necessary and proper to pass an agricultural disaster relief package that will provide prompt economic assistance to agricultural producers and to those whose livelihoods are dependent on the well-being of the agricultural sector; 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, the members of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee, the members of the House Committee on 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 _____, 2007,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State