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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4001 with House Amendments

with

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4001

Sixtieth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

Introduced by

Senators Seymour, Heitkamp, Wardner

Representatives Boucher, Headland, Thorpe

1	A concurrent resolution urging the President and Congress to make the entire nation available
2	for energy development.
3	WHEREAS, the oil and gas industry has demonstrated that onshore and offshore oil
4	and natural gas resources can be developed in an environmentally responsible manner; and
5	WHEREAS, policies of the federal government have placed much of the nation's outer
6	continental shelf off-limits to oil and natural gas production; and
7	WHEREAS, development of oil and natural gas resources, where allowed offshore, has
8	coexisted for decades with recreational and commercial activities while benefiting the entire
9	nation; and
10	WHEREAS, America's increased dependence on foreign energy supplies and global
11	competition for oil and natural gas creates a threat to our national security; and
12	WHEREAS, United States energy use is growing twice as fast as United States energy
13	production, and as a result natural gas prices have increased 140 percent and oil prices have
14	increased 107 percent since 2000; and
15	WHEREAS, the Department of Energy forecasts the annual average price for natural
16	gas will rise 10 percent in 2007; and
17	WHEREAS, rising energy costs are taking a toll on families throughout the nation;
18	according to the National Energy Assistance Directors Association, 32 percent of families had
19	to sacrifice medical care, 24 percent of families failed to make their rent or mortgage payment,
20	20 percent of families were without food for at least a day, and 44 percent of families skipped
21	paying or only partially paid their home energy bill in the past year; and
22	WHEREAS, applications for the low-income home energy assistance program in 2006
23	reached almost 5.8 million households last year, the highest level in the last 13 years, with
24	applications up an average of 12 percent, while nine states reported increases of at least
25	25 percent; and

I	WHEREAS, the nation's farming and ranching sectors depend on a reliable and
2	affordable supply of energy to run equipment, fertilize crops, and transport products to market;
3	and
4	WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of Agriculture, over the past
5	three years increases in the fuel prices paid index have averaged 31 percent, and higher
6	energy prices mean increased costs to farmers and ranchers, who already face tremendous
7	economic challenges; and
8	WHEREAS, farmers' fuel, oil, and electricity expenditures have increased from
9	\$8.6 billion to \$11.5 billion since 1999 according to the United States Department of Agriculture;
10	these increases led to a \$4.5 billion decline in the United States fertilizer industry, which uses
11	natural gas as a raw material to produce nitrogen fertilizer; and 36 percent of the United States
12	fertilizer industry has been shutdown or mothballed since 2002; and
13	WHEREAS, in spite of significant progress in energy efficiency, the United States will
14	still need 32 percent more energy to support economic growth by 2025; and
15	WHEREAS, inland states such as North Dakota are doing more to increase domestic oil
16	and gas production, in 2005 North Dakota was the ninth largest oil-producing state, totaling
17	35.6 million barrels, while the state's natural gas production was more than 58 billion cubic feet;
18	and
19	WHEREAS, North Dakota is cooperating with federal agencies in coordinating energy
20	production on public lands that lie within state borders in an effort to better meet the energy
21	needs of all Americans; and
22	WHEREAS, North Dakota's public lands have more than 1,500 federal oil and gas
23	leases covering more than 814,000 acres and these public lands produced more than 6 million
24	barrels of oil and more than 7.3 billion cubic feet of natural gas in 2005, generating almost
25	\$35 million in federal oil and gas royalties; and
26	WHEREAS, public lands that lie off the nation's coasts also hold enormous potential for
27	energy production, which could significantly help meet the energy needs of all Americans; and
28	WHEREAS, the United States outer continental shelf is conservatively estimated to hold
29	over 419 trillion cubic feet of technically recoverable natural gas and 86 billion barrels of
30	technically recoverable oil; and

1	WHEREAS, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge has shown great potential for oil and
2	natural gas production; and
3	WHEREAS, as this nation seizes the challenge of increasing domestic energy
4	production, it is important to remember that those public lands that lie off our nation's coasts
5	and in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge hold enormous potential for energy production, which
6	could significantly help to meet the energy needs of all Americans;
7	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF NORTH DAKOTA,
8	THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:
9	That the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly urges the President and the Congress of the
10	United States to make the entire nation available for energy development; and
11	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President revoke administrative withdrawals on
12	offshore energy development on the nation's outer continental shelf to provide needed energy
13	resources to the United States; and
14	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this
15	resolution to the President of the United States, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the
16	House of Representatives, the United States Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Energy,
17	and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.