

**Sixty-first Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 6, 2009**

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4015
(Senator Mathern)
(Representatives Nelson, Zaiser)

A concurrent resolution directing the Industrial Commission to conduct a study of the economic impacts of proposed federal, regional, and state carbon cap and trade systems, including the Minnesota Next Generation Energy Act of 2007.

WHEREAS, North Dakota has over an 800-year supply of secure and economically recoverable lignite; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota receives over \$100 million of annual tax revenue from the lignite industry; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota lignite is used to generate electricity for more than two million people in the Northern Great Plains Region and to produce synthetic natural gas from coal that heats 400,000 homes and businesses in Eastern states; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is a major industry in North Dakota and is dependent on carbon-based fuels; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota's citizens are dependent on fossil fuel-based electricity generation; and

WHEREAS, federal, regional, and state initiated cap and trade systems will have a disproportional negative effect on the North Dakota economy; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota attempts to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from North Dakota power plants by including emissions from the generation of electricity imported from outside Minnesota and consumed in Minnesota within the definitions of the Minnesota Next Generation Energy Act of 2007; and

WHEREAS, should the state of Minnesota not adopt a plan to implement the greenhouse gas emission reduction requirements of the Minnesota Next Generation Energy Act of 2007 by August 1, 2009, the result will be a prohibition against importing fossil fuel-based electricity from new facilities located in North Dakota and entering new long-term power purchase agreements with fossil fuel-based power plants located in North Dakota;

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

That the Industrial Commission conduct a study of the economic impacts of proposed federal, regional, and state carbon cap and trade systems, including the Minnesota Next Generation Energy Act of 2007; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Industrial Commission report the findings and recommendations of the study to the Legislative Council by September 1, 2010.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2009,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State