

Sixty-first
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 3028

Introduced by

Representative Belter

Senator Wanzek

1 A concurrent resolution urging Congress to support the responsible use of the beneficial
2 qualities of biotechnology such as pharmaceuticals, anti-immune disease control,
3 biodegradable plastics, and other potential benefits to people and the global environment
4 through high-yield agricultural production.

5 **WHEREAS**, biotechnology refers to any technique that uses living organisms or parts
6 thereof to make or modify a product or plants, animals, or micro-organisms for specific uses
7 and has been used by humankind for thousands of years to improve plants, animals, and
8 micro-organisms; and

9 **WHEREAS**, in the last three decades scientific advances in molecular biology have
10 resulted in what is known as recombinant DNA technology or "genetic engineering" with the
11 ability to readily move genetic material between more distantly related organisms; and

12 **WHEREAS**, pest-resistant and disease-resistant crops developed through
13 biotechnology will preserve and improve the environment by reducing the need for herbicides
14 and pesticides; and

15 **WHEREAS**, modern biotechnology is being used to increase the productivity of crops
16 and livestock, to improve the quality of life by developing new high-yield crops that require
17 fewer inputs and conserve natural resources, to increase the food supply for a rapidly
18 increasing human population, to produce more nutritious foods with longer shelf lives, and to
19 continue to provide consumers with high-quality, low-cost food products; and

20 **WHEREAS**, further advances in modern biotechnology may result in improved crops
21 that combat vitamin and mineral deficiencies that afflict hundreds of millions of people
22 worldwide or that can be used to produce life-saving vaccines and biodegradable plastics; and

23 **WHEREAS**, federal law requires that all foods and food ingredients, whether produced
24 by traditional or modern biotechnology, must be extensively reviewed for safety by the United

1 States Food and Drug Administration and meet the provisions of the federal Food, Drug, and
2 Cosmetic Act before these products may be sold to consumers;

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

5 That the Sixty-first Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to
6 support the responsible use of the beneficial qualities of biotechnology such as
7 pharmaceuticals, anti-immune disease control, biodegradable plastics, and other potential
8 benefits to people and the global environment through high-yield agricultural production; and

9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Secretary of State forward copies of this
10 resolution to the President of the United States, the Senate and House Majority and Minority
11 Leaders of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate, the
12 United States Secretary of Agriculture, and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional
13 Delegation.