

Sixty-first
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3038

Introduced by

Representatives Belter, Brandenburg

1 A concurrent resolution urging Congress to oppose carbon dioxide emission standards.

2 **WHEREAS**, fuel diversity is a key component of the national economy and enhances
3 affordability of energy, is essential for energy security, and augments energy development,
4 production, and transmission reliability; and

5 **WHEREAS**, 85 percent of our national energy consumption is based upon fossil fuels;
6 and

7 **WHEREAS**, carbon dioxide is a natural by-product of fossil fuel combustion; and

8 **WHEREAS**, carbon dioxide is not classified as an ambient air pollutant nor a hazardous
9 air pollutant, but is a beneficial gas that contributes to the ecological health of all natural
10 resources; and

11 **WHEREAS**, carbon dioxide is a non-toxic gas found naturally in the environment; and

12 **WHEREAS**, reducing power plant emissions of carbon dioxide to 1990 levels as
13 proposed by pending federal legislation would increase consumer electricity costs by
14 33 percent; and

15 **WHEREAS**, limits on carbon dioxide emissions will require energy rationing; and

16 **WHEREAS**, credits for 'voluntary' carbon dioxide reductions encourage support for
17 energy rationing because the credits achieve full monetary value only under a Kyoto-like
18 emissions cap-and-trade program; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the Energy Information Administration estimates that the Kyoto Protocol's
20 carbon dioxide emission reduction targets could cost the United States up to \$400 billion
21 annually; and

22 **WHEREAS**, approximately 95 percent of the greenhouse gases emitted by motor
23 vehicles are carbon dioxide; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Transportation is currently undertaking a
25 corporate average fuel economy rulemaking process that addresses greenhouse gas emissions

1 from automobiles in a manner that carefully weighs the technical, economic, safety, job,
2 competitive industrial, and consumer choice implications; and

3 **WHEREAS**, state regulation of carbon dioxide emissions for motor vehicles is
4 tantamount to a state version of federal fuel economy mandates that reduces consumer choice
5 by restricting production of larger, heavier vehicles that provide more utility and passenger
6 safety; and

7 **WHEREAS**, states can best encourage greater implementation of innovative
8 technologies through market-based consumer incentives and support public and private
9 partnerships that promote the development of advanced technologies; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the Bush administration's global warming initiative stresses the importance
11 of science in guiding policy and actions that are consistent with the need to maintain healthy
12 economic growth and places increased emphasis on improving the state of climate science, so
13 that policy actions are consistent with our state of knowledge;

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

16 That the Sixty-first Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to
17 oppose carbon dioxide emission standards; and

18 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Sixty-first Legislative Assembly supports the
19 free market principles contained within the Bush administration's initiative as a cost-effective
20 and scientifically guided national program to address the climate change issue; and

21 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Sixty-first Legislative Assembly is opposed to
22 mandatory or "voluntary" carbon dioxide emission standards and the use of greenhouse
23 transferable credits as a tool for environmental policy or regulation; and

24 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this
25 resolution to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.