

Sixty-first
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 4015

Introduced by

Senator Mathern

Representatives Nelson, Zaiser

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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