

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4016

Introduced by

Senators Potter, Krauter, Marcellais

Representatives Kilichowski, S. Meyer, Schmidt

1 A concurrent resolution urging the Congress of the United States and the President to enact
2 federal legislation promoting travel to the United States by overseas visitors, thereby promoting
3 the economies of communities across North Dakota and the United States.

4 **WHEREAS**, travel and tourism generates \$1.7 trillion in economic activity in the United
5 States every year; and

6 **WHEREAS**, travel and tourism is a powerful economic generator for North Dakota,
7 accounting for \$3.8 billion in visitor spending in the state in 2006; and

8 **WHEREAS**, travel and tourism promote job creation in North Dakota with as many as
9 30,240 jobs related to travel and tourism economic activity, 8.6 percent of total employment in
10 the state; and

11 **WHEREAS**, since the security changes after 9/11 were implemented, a perception grew
12 overseas that the United States is no longer a friendly and welcoming destination; and

13 **WHEREAS**, travel to the United States from overseas destinations has yet to rebound
14 to pre-9/11 levels; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the perception of the United States as having an unwelcome entry process
16 has cost the United States \$150 billion in lost visitor spending and 250,000 American jobs,
17 losses that affect every state in the Union; and

18 **WHEREAS**, tourism promotes diplomacy as overseas visitors are more likely to have a
19 favorable opinion of the United States after having visited; and

20 **WHEREAS**, despite travel and tourism's positive impact across the United States
21 economy, the federal government has failed to promote travel and tourism as a means to
22 increase economic growth; and

23 **WHEREAS**, all major industrialized nations except the United States have national
24 tourism policies and spend significant funds on promoting their destinations overseas, and, in
25 turn, see substantial returns on their investments; and

1 **WHEREAS**, communities across the state work to promote travel and would benefit
2 from a federal promotion; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the Travel Promotion Act would benefit North Dakota and every state,
4 create jobs, explain national security procedures, and improve our national image around the
5 world;

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

8 That the Sixty-first Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States and
9 the President to enact federal legislation promoting travel to the United States by overseas
10 visitors, thereby promoting the economies of communities across North Dakota and the United
11 States; and

12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this
13 resolution to the President and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.