

Sixty-first  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.

Introduced by

Representative Belter

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 President's global warming initiative stresses the importance of science  
11 in guiding policy and actions that are consistent with the need to maintain healthy economic  
12 growth and places increased emphasis on improving the state of climate science, so that policy  
13 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 President's initiative as a cost-effective and  
20 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.