

Sixty-first
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.

Introduced by

Representative Monson

1 A concurrent resolution urging Congress to freeze congressional salaries until the economy
2 turns the corner on the road to recovery.

3 **WHEREAS**, on Wednesday, January 21, 2009, President Barack Obama placed a
4 freeze on the salaries of his highest-paid aids, stating "families are tightening their belts, and so
5 should Washington"; and

6 **WHEREAS**, in January 2009, with no vote, members of Congress are scheduled to
7 receive an automatic \$4,700 pay raise--a 2.8 percent increase over most members' previous
8 salary of \$169,300; and

9 **WHEREAS**, during this period of economic hardship, with skyrocketing unemployment
10 rates and ever-increasing layoffs, when the United States' national debt exceeds
11 \$10.6 trillion--which calculates to each citizen's share of this debt exceeding \$34,000--the
12 American taxpayers can ill afford to pay the \$2.5 million the 2009 congressional pay raise will
13 cost taxpayers; and

14 **WHEREAS**, not only should members of Congress take President Obama's lead and,
15 through a showing of solidarity, tighten their belts along with the American people, members of
16 Congress should recognize the financial hardship being faced by so many Americans is in part
17 a result of congressional action or inaction;

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

20 That the Sixty-first Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to
21 freeze congressional salaries until the economy turns the corner on the road to recovery; and

22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward a copy of this
23 resolution to each member of Congress.