

Sixty-first  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.

Introduced by

Representative Boe

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study ways in which the state can  
2 support the ethanol industry.

3 **WHEREAS**, the United States Environmental Protection Agency recently announced  
4 that the 2009 renewable fuel standard will require most refiners, importers, and nonoxygenate  
5 blenders of gasoline to displace 10.21 percent of their gasoline with renewable fuels such as  
6 ethanol; and

7 **WHEREAS**, as a nation, we consume approximately 140 billion gallons of gasoline each  
8 year; and

9 **WHEREAS**, if ethanol were blended with every single drop of gasoline, the market for  
10 ethanol would be approximately 14 billion gallons a year; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the existing market for ethanol is approximately 12 billion gallons a year;  
12 and

13 **WHEREAS**, as of December 2008, the United States had the capacity to produce  
14 10.8 billion gallons of ethanol, plans for plant expansions that would allow for the production of  
15 an additional 626 million gallons of ethanol, and plans for plant construction that would allow for  
16 the production of an additional 1.8 billion gallons of ethanol, thereby totalling 13.2 billion  
17 gallons; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the planned expansions, combined with higher gasoline prices, fewer miles  
19 traveled, economic uncertainty, more fuel-efficient vehicles, and the federal government's cap  
20 on permissible ethanol blend ratios, the ethanol industry will soon approach an issue of having  
21 greater supply than demand, i.e., the "blend wall";

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

24 That the Legislative Council study ways in which the state can support the ethanol  
25 industry, including ways to promote research related to the use of midrange ethanol blends in

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- 1 motor vehicles other than flex-fuel vehicles; ways to encourage the federal government to
- 2 increase the percentage of ethanol that can be blended for use in gasoline-only vehicles; and
- 3 ways in which state lawmakers, members of Congress, and consumers can be better educated
- 4 and informed about the benefits of ethanol with respect to the agricultural sector and with
- 5 respect to our nation's national security; and
- 6 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Council report its findings and
- 7 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to
- 8 the Sixty-second Legislative Assembly.