

Sixty-first
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.

Introduced by

Representative Belter

1 A concurrent resolution regarding biotechnology resolution.

2 **WHEREAS**, biotechnology refers to any technique that uses living organisms or parts
3 thereof to make or modify a product or plants, animals, or microorganisms for specific uses and
4 has been used by human kind for thousands of years to improve plant, animals and
5 microorganisms.

6 **WHEREAS**, in the last three decades scientific advances in molecular biology have
7 resulted in what is known as recombinant DNA technology or "genetic engineering" with the
8 ability to readily move genetic material between more distantly related organisms.

9 **WHEREAS**, pest and disease resistant crops developed through biotechnology will
10 preserve and improve the environment by reducing the need for herbicides and pesticides.

11 **WHEREAS**, modern biotechnology is being used to increase the productivity of crops
12 and livestock, to improve the quality of life by developing new high-yielding crops that require
13 fewer inputs and conserve natural resources, to increase the food supply for a rapidly
14 increasing human population, to produce more nutritious foods with longer shelf lives and to
15 continue to provide consumers with high-quality, low-cost food products.

16 **WHEREAS**, further advances in modern biotechnology may result in improved crops,
17 for example, that combat vitamin and mineral deficiencies that afflict hundreds of millions
18 people worldwide or that can be used to produce life-saving vaccines and biodegradable
19 plastics.

20 **WHEREAS**, federal law requires that all foods and food ingredients, whether produced
21 by traditional or modern biotechnology, must be extensively reviewed for safety by the U.S.
22 Food and Drug Administration and meet the provisions of the Federal Food, Drug, and
23 Cosmetics Act before they can be said to consumers.

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

1 That the North Dakota Legislative Assembly supports the responsible use of the
2 beneficial qualities of biotechnology such as pharmaceuticals, anti-immune disease control,
3 biodegradable plastics, and other potential benefits to people in their states, the nation, the
4 world and the global environment through high-yield agricultural production.

5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this
6 resolution to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.