

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3027

Introduced by

Representatives Schmidt, Hatlestad, J. Kelsh, Steiner

Senators Larsen, Miller

1 A concurrent resolution ~~of no confidence in the Natural Resources Conservation Service's state-~~
2 ~~conservationist and~~ urging the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources
3 Conservation Service to continue the present cooperative agreement process at a \$10,000
4 funding level; allow continuation of local decisionmaking by resource conservation and
5 development councils, including implementation of community development projects, for as long
6 as Congress funds the Resource Conservation and Development program; and to allow a
7 resource conservation and development coordinator colocated with a North Dakota regional
8 council to maintain that colocation.

9 **WHEREAS**, resource conservation and development councils play an important role in the
10 conservation, development, and utilization of natural resources; and

11 **WHEREAS**, resource conservation and development councils work to improve the general
12 level of economic activity and enhance the environment and standard of living in all
13 communities, provide a system of rural development to encourage the wise use of natural
14 resources, and improve the quality of life in America; and

15 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota has eight authorized councils in the state; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation
17 Service has developed, funded, and signed cooperative agreements, in accordance with
18 Natural Resources Conservation Service policy, with each resource conservation and
19 development council at a constant financial level of \$10,000, which allows the council to be the
20 local decisionmaking body to implement these cooperative agreements; and

21 **WHEREAS**, resource conservation and development councils have utilized \$42,000 of
22 cooperative agreement funds to generate \$2.2 million of projects in North Dakota, including
23 projects with the state's Indian nations; and

24 **WHEREAS**, four of the eight councils have established local offices that house a United
25 States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service employee providing

1 technical assistance on a daily basis as directed by the council and functioning within a local
2 partnership with regional councils; ~~and~~

3 ~~— **WHEREAS**, the state conservationist has determined to modify the cooperative agreement~~
4 ~~process to eliminate local decisionmaking, eliminate community development projects, and to~~
5 ~~relocate resource conservation and development coordinators to an office of the state~~
6 ~~conservationist's preference subverting Natural Resources Conservation Service policy;~~

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

9 That the Sixty-second Legislative Assembly ~~adopts this concurrent resolution of no~~
10 ~~confidence in the state conservationist and~~ urges the United States Department of Agriculture's
11 Natural Resources Conservation Service to continue the present cooperative agreement
12 process at a \$10,000 funding level; allow continuation of local decisionmaking by resource
13 conservation and development councils, including implementation of community development
14 projects, for as long as Congress funds the Resource Conservation and Development program;
15 and to allow a resource conservation and development coordinator colocated with a North
16 Dakota regional council to maintain that colocation; and

17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution
18 to the Governor, the North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner, Chief of Natural Resources
19 Conservation Service, and the United States Secretary of Agriculture.