

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3026

Page 1, line 3, remove "for"

Page 1, line 4, remove "less than fair market value of the property"

Page 1, after line 5, insert:

"WHEREAS, the terms of many wetland easements obtained by representatives of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service were not clearly defined; and"

Page 1, after line 8, insert:

"WHEREAS, if wetlands are to be protected to the extent desired by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, then large volumes of water in surficial, unconfined aquifers in North Dakota will be prevented from being put to beneficial use; and

WHEREAS, the contemporary interpretation of United States Fish and Wildlife Service wetland easements by the service is outside the scope of the original intent of the easement that was to prevent surface drainage of wetlands; and

WHEREAS, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service is not following federal court decisions that have been rendered concerning the acquisition of easements by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

WHEREAS, the state has incurred legal expenses in forcing the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to delineate wetlands; and

WHEREAS, the creation of wetland easements has resulted in lost tax revenues to political subdivisions as well as devaluation of surrounding real estate; and

WHEREAS, the ever-changing definition of wetlands by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has led to uncertainty and the inability of landowners to properly plan for the future in their farming operations; and"

Page 1, line 10, remove "more fairly compensate the landowner,"

Page 1, line 11, remove the comma

Renumber accordingly