

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4011

Introduced by

Senators Laffen, Lyson, Sitte

Representatives Anderson, Brabandt, Glassheim

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to study the feasibility and
2 desirability of creating a 25-year sustainability vision plan for state facilities with the intent to
3 lower our energy usage, energy costs, and improve the environment.

4 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota owns and operates 22,000,000 square feet of building space as
5 of January 2011; and

6 **WHEREAS**, implementation of an energy management policy in existing facilities typically
7 yields an annual savings of one dollar a square foot in energy costs; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the Environmental Protection Agency states that buildings account for
9 39 percent of total energy use, 12 percent of total water consumption, 68 percent of the total
10 electricity consumption, and 38 percent of carbon dioxide emissions; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy ranked this state 51st on
12 a 2010 state energy efficiency scorecard, which ranks states according to how they are "moving
13 forward and advancing energy efficiency policies and programs in an effort to create jobs and
14 stimulate their economies during a period of considerable economic uncertainty" among other
15 criteria; and

16 **WHEREAS**, according to the Department of Energy, low-energy building design can save
17 30 percent or more in energy costs over a conventional building which creates the potential of
18 saving the taxpayers of this state tens of millions of dollars annually through the more efficient
19 operation of public facilities; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Americans spend 90 percent of their time indoors, most of which is spent at the
21 workplace, and creating sustainable public buildings will increase indoor air quality which in turn
22 will increase productivity as is evidenced by an Environmental Protection Agency estimate that
23 poor indoor air may cost the nation tens of billions of dollars each year in lost productivity and
24 medical care; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the sustainable reuse of our existing buildings and related infrastructure
2 reduces the amount of demolition and construction waste deposited in landfills, lessens the
3 unnecessary demand for new energy and other natural resources needed to construct a new
4 building, and conserves the energy and investment originally expended to create the structures;

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

7 That the Legislative Management study the feasibility and desirability of creating a 25-year
8 sustainability vision plan for state facilities with the intent to lower our energy usage, energy
9 costs, and improve the environment; and

10 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Management report its findings and
11 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to
12 the Sixty-third Legislative Assembly.