

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3009

Introduced by

Representatives D. Anderson, Hofstad, Hunsakor, D. Johnson, Kempenich

Senators Carlisle, Miller, O'Connell, Sinner

1 A concurrent resolution urging Congress to pass H.R. 5078 or otherwise address the concerns
2 of the agriculture industry in defining the "waters of the United States" in the Clean Water Act.

3 **WHEREAS**, the Clean Water Act compels the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and
4 the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to protect the integrity of the "waters of the
5 United States"; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the term "waters of the United States" was not defined in statute so it has been
7 argued that the term means many things from the spectrum of navigable waters to anything that
8 affects navigable waters; and

9 **WHEREAS**, H.R. 5078 of the 113th Congress prohibits the EPA and the Corps from
10 developing, finalizing, adopting, implementing, applying, administering, or enforcing the
11 proposed rule entitled, "Definition of 'Waters of the United States' Under the Clean Water Act,"
12 issued on April 21, 2014, or the proposed guidance entitled, "Guidance on Identifying Waters
13 Protected By the Clean Water Act," dated February 17, 2012; and

14 **WHEREAS**, H.R. 5078 also prohibits using the proposed rule or proposed guidance, any
15 successor document, or any substantially similar proposed rule or guidance as the basis for any
16 rulemaking or decision regarding the scope or enforcement of the Clean Water Act; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the H.R. 5078 requires the Corps and the EPA to withdraw the interpretive rule
18 entitled, "Notice of Availability Regarding the Exemption from Permitting Under Section 404(f)(1)
19 (A) of the Clean Water Act to Certain Agricultural Conservation Practices," issued on April 21,
20 2014; and

21 **WHEREAS**, H.R. 5078 requires the Corps and the EPA to consult with relevant state and
22 local officials to develop recommendations for a regulatory proposal that would identify the
23 scope of waters covered under the Clean Water Act and the scope of waters not covered;
24 provide for the public review and comment of a draft report that includes a recommendation
25 only if consensus has been reached with regard to the recommendation among the Corps, the

1 EPA, and state and local officials; publish a final report; and report to Congress on the
2 recommendations;

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

5 That the Sixty-fourth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to pass
6 H.R. 5078 or otherwise address the concerns of the agriculture industry in defining the "waters
7 of the United States" in the Clean Water Act; and

8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution
9 to the Commanding General of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Administrator of
10 the Environmental Protection Agency, and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional
11 Delegation.