

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3029

Introduced by

Representatives Nelson, Warner, D. Johnson

Senator Naaden

1 A concurrent resolution urging Congress to aggressively pursue legislation that will permit
2 substantially similar crop protection products registered in Canada to be purchased and used
3 by farmers in the United States; to direct the administrator of the Environmental Protection
4 Agency to work toward the harmonization of crop protection product legislation, and in the event
5 substantial progress is not made, to disallow the importation of any commodity into this country
6 if the commodity contains any crop protection product not approved for use in this country; and
7 to require that the manufacturers of crop protection products publicly justify any price
8 discrepancies between similar products sold in Canada and in the United States.

9 **WHEREAS**, farmers in this state use crop protection products in a safe and responsible
10 manner; and

11 **WHEREAS**, crop protection products are a necessary component of an integrated pest
12 management system, especially with respect to minor crops; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the availability of crop protection products helps to diversify the agricultural
14 economic base; and

15 **WHEREAS**, agricultural products are imported into the United States after having been
16 exposed to crop protection products that have not been approved by the administrator of the
17 Environmental Protection Agency; and

18 **WHEREAS**, agricultural products imported into the United States after having been
19 exposed to agricultural pesticides that have not been approved by the administrator of the
20 Environmental Protection Agency may have chemical residues that could pose a threat to the
21 public health; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the United States and Canada do not recognize each other's scientific data
23 generated for use in the labeling of crop protection products; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the North American Free Trade Agreement allows large amounts of
25 agricultural commodities to cross the border between the United States and Canada; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the percentage of agricultural commodities entering the United States
2 through North Dakota is particularly high compared to those entering through other states; and

3 **WHEREAS**, many of the agricultural commodities entering the United States through
4 North Dakota are produced with crop protection products that are not available to producers in
5 this state or which are available at substantially higher prices than those charged in Canada;
6 and

7 **WHEREAS**, farmers and ranchers in this state suffer economically when they must
8 compete with Canadian producers; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the cost of production for Canadian producers is significantly less, due in
10 part to the availability of crop protection products at prices substantially lower than those
11 charged producers in this state; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the North American Free Trade Agreement set as a goal the complete
13 harmonization of crop protection product registrations between the countries participating in the
14 agreement; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the goal of harmonization has been ignored by the administrator of the
16 Environmental Protection Agency and the Congress of the United States through its passage of
17 the Food Quality Protection Act; and

18 **WHEREAS**, United States Senators Dorgan and Conrad have introduced legislation
19 that would permit the registration and use in this state of Canadian crop protection products;

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

22 That the Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to
23 aggressively pursue legislation that will permit substantially similar crop protection products
24 registered in Canada to be purchased and used by farmers in the United States; to direct the
25 administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to work toward the harmonization of crop
26 protection product legislation, and in the event substantial progress is not made, to disallow the
27 importation of any commodity into this country if the commodity contains any crop protection
28 product not approved for use in this country; and to require that the manufacturers of crop
29 protection products publicly justify any price discrepancies between similar products sold in
30 Canada and in the United States; and

- 1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this
- 2 resolution to the Secretary of Agriculture, the chairmen of the Senate and House Agriculture
- 3 Committees, and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.