Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4023

Introduced by

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Senators Christmann, Bowman, Solberg, Wanzek

Representatives Boehm, Nelson

1	A concurrent resolution urging Congress to monitor the anticompetitive conditions in the grain
2	and meatpacking industries and to take whatever action necessary to ensure that the
3	consequences of such anticompetitive conditions do not further harm producers and
4	consumers.
5	WHEREAS, grain industry consolidations, such as that involving Cargill, Incorporated,
6	and Continental Grain Company, have left a single entity controlling more than 40 percent of all
7	United States corn exports, 33 percent of all soybean exports, and at least 20 percent of all
8	wheat exports; and
9	WHEREAS, meat industry mergers have left the three largest meatpackers, IBP,
10	Cargill's Excel Corporation, and ConAgra's Monfort, controlling almost 80 percent of the cattle
11	slaughter market; and
12	WHEREAS, IBP, which has over \$14 billion in annual sales, is now set to merge with
13	Tyson Foods, Incorporated; and
14	WHEREAS, after the proposed merger, Tyson Foods, Incorporated, will have annual
15	sales in excess of \$23 billion; and
16	WHEREAS, the proposed merger of Tyson Foods, Incorporated, and IBP will create a
17	company that has a major global presence with unparalleled ability to develop innovative food
18	products and market them successfully through international distribution channels; and
19	WHEREAS, consolidation in the meatpacking and grain industries allows for a reduction
20	in prices paid to producers and an increase in the prices required of consumers; and
21	WHEREAS, consolidation in the meatpacking and grain industries leads to extensive
22	scale economies and the replacement of small high-cost operations with larger and more
23	efficient ones; and
24	WHEREAS, all producers and consumers need to understand the effects that

anticompetitive practices have on their lives;

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

That the Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to monitor the anticompetitive conditions in the grain and meatpacking industries and to take whatever action necessary to ensure that the consequences of such anticompetitive conditions do not further harm producers and consumers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, the chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.