

**Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 9, 2001**

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4023
(Senators Christmann, Bowman, Solberg, Wanzek)
(Representatives Boehm, Nelson)

A concurrent resolution urging Congress 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.

WHEREAS, grain industry consolidations, such as that involving Cargill, Incorporated, and Continental Grain Company, have left a single entity controlling more than 40 percent of all United States corn exports, 33 percent of all soybean exports, and at least 20 percent of all wheat exports; and

WHEREAS, meat industry mergers have left the three largest meatpackers, IBP, Cargill's Excel Corporation, and ConAgra's Monfort, controlling almost 80 percent of the cattle slaughter market; and

WHEREAS, IBP, which has over \$14 billion in annual sales, is now set to merge with Tyson Foods, Incorporated; and

WHEREAS, after the proposed merger, Tyson Foods, Incorporated, will have annual sales in excess of \$23 billion; and

WHEREAS, the proposed merger of Tyson Foods, Incorporated, and IBP will create a company that has a major global presence with unparalleled ability to develop innovative food products and market them successfully through international distribution channels; and

WHEREAS, consolidation in the meatpacking and grain industries allows for a reduction in prices paid to producers and an increase in the prices required of consumers; and

WHEREAS, consolidation in the meatpacking and grain industries leads to extensive scale economies and the replacement of small high-cost operations with larger and more efficient ones; and

WHEREAS, all producers and consumers need to understand the effects that anticompetitive practices have on their lives;

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.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2001,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State