

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4015

Introduced by

Senators Bowman, Andrist, Lyson

Representatives Drovdal, Wald, Weiler

1 A concurrent resolution urging the President and the Congress of the United States to develop
2 a national energy policy for our nation that allows responsible access to public land and to
3 implement laws and regulations that promote the multiple use concept on public lands across
4 our state and nation allowing all users to benefit from the public lands.

5 **WHEREAS**, public lands in North Dakota are extremely important to the people of this
6 state and throughout the history of this state have been primarily managed under the multiple
7 use management concept; and

8 **WHEREAS**, farming and ranching are important aspects of the economy of North
9 Dakota and a comprehensive, well-managed road system is important for the effective
10 management of ranch operations and to ensure the safety and well-being of people who live
11 and work in the national grasslands; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the state's law governing section lines and the county's ownership interest
13 in minerals, roads, rights of way, and easements are legal rights that require protection and
14 consideration in determining the management and use of the national grasslands; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the oil and gas industry in North Dakota has explored on and drilled in the
16 national grasslands for the past 50 years and restored over 500 wells, and 480 miles of roads
17 representing more than 5,500 acres have been returned to vegetation after the oil and gas
18 resources were depleted, enabling the state to benefit from a valuable natural resource; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the nation is on the verge of an energy crisis with 67 percent of our oil
20 reserves lying under federal lands while access to those lands has been decreased by
21 60 percent during the past 10 years; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the roadless plan for the national grasslands will have a continued adverse
23 impact on the counties and states where the national grasslands and the national forests are
24 located;

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

3 That the Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly urges the President and the Congress of
4 the United States to develop a national energy policy for our nation that allows responsible
5 access to public land and to implement laws and regulations that promote the multiple use
6 concept on public lands across our state and nation allowing all users to benefit from the public
7 lands; and

8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this
9 resolution to the Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of the Interior, the Chief of the United
10 States Forest Service, the supervisor of the Dakota Prairie Grasslands office, and to each
11 member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.