Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota

ENGROSSED HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3022

Introduced by

Representatives	Drovdal, Hanson,	Porter
Senators Lyson,	Wardner	

1	A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the use of incentive programs
2	in North Dakota as a way of keeping elk in the state and providing increased opportunities for
3	landowners, hunters, and the general public.
4	WHEREAS, on at least two separate occasions within the last ten years, "surplus" elk
5	have been exported from the state of North Dakota; and
6	WHEREAS, under current elk management regulations, the vast majority of the people
7	of North Dakota have only a once-in-a-lifetime chance of getting a permit to hunt elk within the
8	state; and
9	WHEREAS, the strong demand for elk permits was clearly evident in the year 2000
10	when there were 11,951 applications received by the Game and Fish Department and only 204
11	permits made available; and
12	WHEREAS, exportation of elk from the state denies our residents the future opportunity
13	to hunt, observe, and otherwise benefit from these majestic animals; and
14	WHEREAS, the elk population of the South Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park
15	periodically exceeds acceptable carrying capacity based upon National Park Service
16	guidelines, thus forcing a determination of where to translocate "surplus" animals; and
17	WHEREAS, there are tens of thousands of acres of public land in North Dakota with
18	suitable habitat to which "surplus" elk could be translocated; and
19	WHEREAS, there exists a memorandum of understanding between the National Park
20	Service, the Game and Fish Department, and other agencies that gives the Game and Fish
21	Department the first option to accept management of said "surplus" elk; and
22	WHEREAS, there are a number of states that have designed and implemented
23	custom-tailored programs with incentives to facilitate acceptable solutions to wildlife
24	management issues such as the "surplus" elk issue in North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, the people of North Dakota strongly value their hunting heritage, as evidenced by an overwhelming 80 percent approval of the recent amendment to the Constitution of North Dakota related to that heritage;

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

That the Legislative Council study the use of incentive programs implemented in other states that would allow the retention of "surplus" elk and also benefit other wildlife species, incentive programs to enhance landowner tolerance of wildlife and to provide economic benefit opportunities to landowners while increasing access to private land for public hunting, effectiveness of incentive programs to foster a spirit of cooperation between landowners, sportsmen, and regulatory agencies in collaborative wildlife management efforts, and disease concerns associated with the translocation of free ranging wildlife; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Council report its findings and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Council report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly.