

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3075

Introduced by

Representatives Galvin, Kreidt

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study factors contributing to the
2 failure of mining companies to release land from final bond and whether current mining
3 practices are in violation of the state's corporate farming laws.

4 **WHEREAS**, there are 78,500 acres of land under mining permits in North Dakota and
5 there is a 10-year period once mining and initial reclamation is completed to assess the mined
6 land's productivity; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the Public Service Commission estimates that there may be between 8,000
8 and 10,000 acres of land that are technically eligible for bond release but for which no related
9 requests have been filed with the Public Service Commission by mining companies; and

10 **WHEREAS**, farmers and ranchers wish to have ownership of this land; and

11 **WHEREAS**, there are circumstances in which the land is in full agricultural production
12 and mining companies are profiting from land rental and land production even though the land
13 is no longer reasonably necessary for their mining operations; and

14 **WHEREAS**, this practice may be in violation of North Dakota's corporate farming laws;

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

17 That the Legislative Council study factors contributing to the failure of mining companies
18 to release land from final bond and whether current mining practices are in violation of the
19 state's corporate farming laws; and

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