

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3047

Introduced by

Representatives Solberg, Drovdal, Norland

Senator Andrist

1 A concurrent resolution urging the State Historical Society of North Dakota to rethink and
2 amend the proposed stodgy and unmarketable name of the state visitor center at the
3 confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers.

4 **WHEREAS**, the people of Williams, Divide, and McKenzie Counties have supported and
5 invested in the historic reconstruction and interpretation of Fort Union Trading Post National
6 Historic Site and Fort Buford Army Post State Historic Site continuously since 1984; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the economic benefit of heritage tourism is generally accepted to be one of
8 the big three elements of North Dakota's income, along with agriculture and energy; and

9 **WHEREAS**, historic accuracy and successful marketing is required to capture the
10 attention of the increased tourist trade to be gained from the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial just
11 commenced at Jefferson's Monticello; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the people of the Yellowstone-Missouri Confluence area, and the members
13 of the Yellowstone-Missouri Confluence Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage
14 Foundation, Inc., Williston, have repeatedly voted and expressed their distaste and
15 dissatisfaction for the name put upon them by the State Historical Society of North Dakota of
16 "Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center", which will not readily fit on a sign or a
17 brochure, or be used in advertising or common speech; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the first documented major geographic feature Lewis and Clark discovered
19 after they ventured out of the safety of the known world at the Mandan villages was the
20 sought-after Yellowstone River; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the late Senator Frank Wenstrom and all the legislative assemblies since
22 1959 have endorsed and supported the Yellowstone-Missouri-Fort Union Commission as an
23 agency of state government to grow the historic tourism industry in the Confluence area;

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

Fifty-eighth
Legislative Assembly

1 That the Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly urges and directs the State Historical Society
2 of North Dakota to allow the people of northwest North Dakota to name the visitor center they
3 both support and depend upon as part of their economic future as the Yellowstone-Missouri
4 Discovery Center; and

5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this
6 resolution to the Governor, Superintendent of the State Historical Society of North Dakota, and
7 to each member of the board of directors of the State Historical Society of North Dakota.