

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3005

Introduced by

Representatives Froelich, Brandenburg, Kerzman, Kretschmar

Senators Erbele, Krauter

1 A concurrent resolution urging Congress to pass an agricultural disaster relief package.

2 **WHEREAS**, weather-related disasters devastated United States agriculture in 2005 and
3 2006; and

4 **WHEREAS**, during 2005, over 1,000,000 acres could not be planted because of
5 weather-related disasters, hundreds of thousands of acres that were planted were lost because
6 of excessive rainfall, 78 percent of all counties were declared by the United States Department
7 of Agriculture to be primary or contiguous disaster areas, and there has been no disaster
8 assistance for those who lost all or a large part of their 2005 farm income; and

9 **WHEREAS**, 2006 was declared by United States Department of Agriculture
10 meteorologists to be one of the worst droughts in the nation's history, preceded only by the dust
11 bowl of the 1930s and the prolonged drought of the 1950s; and

12 **WHEREAS**, during 2006, 71 percent of all counties were declared by the United States
13 Department of Agriculture to be primary or contiguous disaster areas and south central North
14 Dakota was at the epicenter of this devastation; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Agriculture drought data suggests that
16 2006 disaster assistance needs will be in the \$3 billion to \$4 billion range; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the economic pain that results from weather-related disasters does not end
18 at the farm gate but permeates every storefront of every main street in every community in rural
19 areas affected by weather-related disasters and must be addressed through the immediate
20 passage of an agricultural disaster relief package; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the very practical and immediate needs of agricultural producers and rural
22 communities should not be ignored and must be addressed before irreparable economic harm
23 comes to tens of thousands of agricultural producers, their families, and main street
24 businesses;

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

3 That the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to
4 recognize that the weather-related disasters of 2005 and 2006 have caused economic
5 devastation on the farms, the ranches, and the main streets of rural America and to take all
6 steps necessary and proper to pass an agricultural disaster relief package that will provide
7 prompt economic assistance to agricultural producers and to those whose livelihoods are
8 dependent on the well-being of the agricultural sector; and

9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this
10 resolution to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the United States Department
11 of Agriculture, the members of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee, the
12 members of the House Committee on Agriculture, and to each member of the North Dakota
13 Congressional Delegation.