

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTIONS

CHAPTER 617

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3004

(Representatives McLeod, Christy, Grindberg, J. Johnson, Jonas, Kasper, Swiontek,
Wagner)
(Senators Roers, Sorvaag)

A concurrent resolution to extend congratulations to the North Dakota State University football team for earning the program's 10th national college football championship since 2011.

WHEREAS, on Monday, January 6, 2025, the North Dakota State University Bison football team defeated the Montana State University Bobcats in the Football Championship Subdivision national championship game in Frisco, Texas; and

WHEREAS, the victory was the 10th college football championship for North Dakota State University since 2011; and

WHEREAS, the impact of the victory was not only felt within the North Dakota State University community, but across the entire state of North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, the achievement showcases the hard work, discipline, and determination that defines our state and our academic institutions and their tradition of excellence; and

WHEREAS, Bison student-athletes set the standard both on the field and in the classroom, with 20 student-athletes across five sports earning the prestigious NCAA Elite 90 award for the highest grade point average at national championships; and

WHEREAS, over 57 percent or 253 student-athletes have earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher and 83 of those have a perfect grade point average of 4.0; and

WHEREAS, this win not only reinforces the state's legacy of excellence but also highlights the endless possibilities available in the state, propelling the state's communities toward greater accomplishments;

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

That the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly offers its deepest congratulations to the North Dakota State University Bison football team for earning the program's 10th national college football championship since 2011; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the President of North Dakota State University, the Athletic Director of North Dakota State University, and the Head Coach of the North Dakota State University football team.

Filed January 20, 2025

CHAPTER 618

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3005

(Representatives Schneider, Hager, Kasper, Marschall, J. Olson, Pyle, M. Ruby,
Schauer, Tveit, Klemm)
(Senators Hogan, Marcellais)

A concurrent resolution urging the 119th Congress to provide for the inclusion on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall the names of the lost crew members of the U.S.S. Frank E. Evans.

WHEREAS, in the early morning hours of June 3, 1969, while participating in Operation Sea Spirit, the U.S.S. Frank E. Evans collided with the HMAS Melbourne in the South China Sea, resulting in the death of 74 United States sailors, including Patrick Gene Glennon of Fessenden, North Dakota, and Robert James Seale of Grand Forks, North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, all American ships were ordered out from combat support missions in Vietnam to participate in the training operation; and

WHEREAS, Public Law No. 96-297 [94 Stat. 827; 16 U.S.C. 431 et seq.], authorized the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund to establish a memorial in honor and recognition of the men and women of the armed forces of the United States who served in the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund relies on the department of defense to compile the list of names and criteria for inclusion on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall; and

WHEREAS, under Title 38, United States Code, Section 101, veterans who died as a direct or indirect result of military operations in Southeast Asia are eligible for inclusion on the memorial; and

WHEREAS, the evidence submitted regarding the accident that destroyed the U.S.S. Frank E. Evans, killing 74 of her sailors, shows the Evans had been operating in combat support missions and would have returned to combat support upon completing Operation Sea Spirit;

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

That the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly urges the 119th Congress to provide for the inclusion on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall the names of the lost crew members of the U.S.S. Frank E. Evans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

Filed March 21, 2025

CHAPTER 619

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3006

(Representatives Longmuir, Ista, Lefor)
(Senators Hogan, Hogue)

A concurrent resolution urging the Postmaster General of the United States Postal Service to improve mail processing across the state to address delivery issues.

WHEREAS, the United States Postal Service originally was formed to ensure timely notice and to encourage citizens to participate in government; and

WHEREAS, the United States Postal Service serves a crucial role in providing reliable mail delivery to all individuals and businesses in the state; and

WHEREAS, rural residents especially rely on the mail for delivery of goods and services not available except at long distances, including medicine and other necessities; and

WHEREAS, the majority of official county newspapers are the sole news sources that cover time-sensitive government actions and contain important public notices regarding state and local elections, sample ballots, and information about polling places; and

WHEREAS, notices of estate proceedings, notice to creditors, and land sales must be timely made for the facilitation of legal processes in the state's court system; and

WHEREAS, small businesses rely on incoming client payments through the mail for positive cash flow to pay employees; and

WHEREAS, efficient mail processing and clear communication about mail processing is essential for the effectiveness and public trust in the postal system; and

WHEREAS, late and inconsistent mail delivery causes significant disruptions to the state's business community; and

WHEREAS, challenges in reporting issues or obtaining clear and timely information from the United States Postal Service causes a lack of transparency and customer satisfaction; and

WHEREAS, advancements in technology and operational processes offer opportunities for the United States Postal Service to improve its mail processing capabilities; and

WHEREAS, standardized communication procedures regarding mail processing and disruption remedies offer transparency to people using the postal service; and

WHEREAS, commitment to providing timely updates on frequently used channels of communication regarding known service disruptions or operational changes affecting mail delivery provides accessible and necessary information to customers;

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

That the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly urges the Postmaster General of the United States Postal Service to improve mail processing and transparency across the state to address delivery issues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward a copy of this resolution to the Postmaster General of the United States Postal Service and each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

Filed March 21, 2025

CHAPTER 620**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3007**

(Representatives Dockter, Heinert, Martinson, Porter, M. Ruby)
(Senators Axtman, Bekkedahl, Gerhardt, Meyer)

A concurrent resolution urging Congress to recognize United States troops who served in Honduras from 1981 to 1992.

WHEREAS, the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly believes military members and veterans who serve or have served in hostile environments should be recognized; and

WHEREAS, the United States military maintained a presence in Honduras throughout the 1980s and 1990s, providing training and conducting military exercises with the host nation; and

WHEREAS, the presence of the United States troops served as a deterrent to aggression in the region and as a means of support for democratic values through civil action in Honduran communities; and

WHEREAS, United States troops were equipped with live ammunition and assisted the Honduran military in training and combat support; and

WHEREAS, United States troops experienced hostile fire and imminent danger; and

WHEREAS, at least one United States service member received a purple heart because of terrorist activity; and

WHEREAS, United States troops lost their lives while in Honduras due to terrorist activity and hazardous circumstances;

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

That the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly urges Congress to issue an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, or similar recognition of having served in an area of hostility, to all United States troops who served in Honduras from 1981 to 1992; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

Filed March 21, 2025

CHAPTER 621

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3008

(Representatives Porter, Holle, Martinson, Toman)
(Senators Gerhardt, Schaible)

A concurrent resolution that Chuck Suchy be designated as the first state troubadour of North Dakota for a term of five years until a successor is selected pursuant to law.

WHEREAS, Chuck Suchy is an accomplished folk musician who has dedicated his life to preserving and sharing the musical traditions of the state; and

WHEREAS, Chuck Suchy has been a prominent figure in the state for decades, performing across the state and beyond, and creating a unique and lasting impact on the cultural heritage of the region; and

WHEREAS, Chuck Suchy's work as a songwriter has highlighted the stories, values, and history of North Dakota, resonating with audiences of all ages and backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, Chuck Suchy's music draws upon the state's diverse cultures, from its agricultural roots to its Native American heritage, and has consistently celebrated the natural beauty and spirit of North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, the designation of a state troubadour will recognize Chuck Suchy's significant role in advancing North Dakota's musical legacy and will help to promote the state's cultural identity to the broader public; and

WHEREAS, the title of state troubadour is in keeping with the state's tradition of honoring individuals who have made substantial contributions to the arts and cultural preservation;

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

That Chuck Suchy be designated as the first state troubadour of North Dakota for a term of five years until a successor is selected pursuant to law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature expresses its deepest appreciation for Chuck Suchy's contributions to the musical and cultural life of the state, and extends its warmest congratulations to him on this well-deserved honor and that the Secretary of State forward a copy of this resolution to Chuck Suchy.

Filed March 25, 2025

CHAPTER 622

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3009

(Representatives J. Olson, Dockter, Heinert, Novak, M. Ruby)
(Senators Gerhardt, Kessel, Patten)

A concurrent resolution urging the federal government to take actions to enact trade policy that supports business and workers of the United States while penalizing global polluters.

WHEREAS, Chinese government-owned industry is an arm of the Communist Party and strives to increase its influence over the global economy by pursuing predatory, unfair trade practices designed to steal intellectual property and destroy competition from the United States; and

WHEREAS, China is the greatest immediate obstacle to reducing global pollution and accounts for one-third of global emissions, more than the rest of the developed world combined, while it subsidizes its exports by not imposing or enforcing environmental and labor standards comparable to those in other developed nations; and

WHEREAS, private sector innovation and American resources have led the United States to eliminate more emissions than any other country in the last fifteen years; and

WHEREAS, the United States' economy is 44 percent more carbon efficient than the world average; and

WHEREAS, goods produced in China and Russia generate 300 and 400 percent on average, respectively, more in carbon emissions compared to equivalent goods produced in the United States; and

WHEREAS, 75 percent of the goods the United States imports are from higher-polluting countries, and yet the United States is forced to compete with subsidized imports from China and elsewhere that face few limits on how much they pollute; and

WHEREAS, regulatory policies have blocked resource development on public lands in North Dakota, resulting in the United States importing over 80 percent of its critical minerals from foreign sources, with China controlling 85 percent of global processing capacity, thus enriching China and undermining domestic mineral production capabilities; and

WHEREAS, these federal environmental policies have harmed all North Dakotans by reducing revenue by an estimated \$1.2 billion to the state and royalties to mineral owners; and

WHEREAS, holding foreign polluters to the same standards as domestic producers would provide a plethora of benefits to the state of North Dakota, including diversifying supply chains by reducing the United States' dependence on imports from high-emitting producers like Russia and China, decreasing global pollution by holding the biggest polluters accountable to western environmental standards, and bolstering domestic manufacturing and generating well-paying jobs in rural areas;

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

That the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly urges the federal government to support trade policies that hold high-polluting countries like China and Russia accountable for pollution and bolster domestic extraction and production; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, and each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

Filed March 21, 2025

CHAPTER 623

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3011

(Representatives K. Anderson, Frelich, Meier, Pyle, M. Ruby, Tveit, Weisz, Maki)
(Senators Meyer, Paulson, Wobbema, Van Oosting)

A concurrent resolution urging Congress to provide veterans with medical coverage for hyperbaric oxygenation therapy.

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates between 1.6 million to 3.8 million concussions occur each year; and

WHEREAS, efforts must be made to reduce the risk and health care costs for the country,

veterans, and others with brain injuries; and

WHEREAS, veterans injured in the line of duty deserve the best treatment our nation can offer; and

WHEREAS, veterans suffering with traumatic brain injuries or posttraumatic stress disorder are prescribed symptom-reducing drugs; and

WHEREAS, in essence, veterans are warehoused and discharged, dependent on costly antidepressants and other antipsychotic medicines that promote dangerous dependencies and may result in lethal interactions; and

WHEREAS, traumatic brain injury is one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in the United States, accounting for approximately 2 million emergency room visits, between 230,000 and 500,000 hospital admissions, and 52,000 deaths annually in the United States; and

WHEREAS, hyperbaric oxygen therapy is a medical treatment that enhances the body's natural healing process by inhalation of one hundred percent oxygen in a total body chamber, where atmospheric pressure is increased and controlled, and which is used for a wide variety of treatments as a part of an overall medical care plan; and

WHEREAS, hyperbaric oxygen therapy and improving diagnostics have emerged as a promising and effective treatment in healing injured brains and subsequently reducing, and in some cases completely alleviating, the symptoms associated with the traumatic brain injury;

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

That the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly urges Congress to provide veterans with medical coverage for hyperbaric oxygenation therapy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to each member of Congress.

Filed March 21, 2025

CHAPTER 624

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3014

(Representatives Rohr, K. Anderson, Dobervich, Frelich, McLeod, Meier, M. Ruby)
(Senators Dwyer, Hogue, Myrdal)

A concurrent resolution urging public health, health care systems, and health care providers to prioritize primary prevention in addressing vitamin D deficiency through multifaceted precision public health and medicine approaches.

WHEREAS, vitamin D is generated primarily from the sun and research demonstrates the need for regional sun exposure and vitamin D recommendations to offset individual and population health risk factors for disease; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota is located at a latitude of 48 degrees and has an ultraviolet index of less than three for up to 6 months of the year due to the solar zenith, from October to April, which limits the vitamin D generating potential from sun exposure; and

WHEREAS, this environmental determinant of health puts all residents of the state at risk for vitamin D deficiency and insufficiency compared to citizens of the United States in southern latitudes, potentially leading to suboptimal health outcomes and increased health care costs for residents; and

WHEREAS, research indicates it is difficult to achieve the daily recommended intake of vitamin D from foods alone and there is a causal relationship between vitamin D deficiency and all cause mortality, cardiovascular disease, dementia, multiple sclerosis, diabetes, and many types of cancer, including breast, pancreatic, and colorectal cancers; and

WHEREAS, research indicates an association between vitamin D deficiency and emotional regulation, mental health conditions including Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia, suicide and suicidal ideation, depression, and opioid addiction; and

WHEREAS, research indicates an association between vitamin D deficiency and autoimmune disease, myocardial infarction, and stroke;

WHEREAS, research indicates adequate vitamin D intake results in improved prenatal and neonatal outcomes, including reducing the risk for pre-eclampsia, gestational diabetes, and preterm birth; and

WHEREAS, research indicates women with 25(OH)D serum concentrations equal to or greater than 60 nanograms per milliliter had an 80 percent lower risk of breast cancer than women with concentrations of less than 20 nanograms per milliliter; and

WHEREAS, research indicates vitamin D supplementation and sensible sun exposure safely and effectively increase vitamin D serum concentrations; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Assembly advocates for statewide educational campaigns aimed at increasing awareness of vitamin D deficiency; its risks; the importance of adequate vitamin D levels, particularly for pregnant individuals, children, and those with mental health concerns; and other heightened risk factors for the public and health care professionals;

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

That the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly urges North Dakota public health, health care systems, and health care providers to prioritize primary prevention in addressing vitamin D deficiency through multifaceted precision public health and medicine approaches that recognize both regional and individual determinants of health in diverse populations across the lifespan to improve patient outcomes, population health, and decrease overall health care costs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly urges the State Health Officer to publish this resolution on the official website of the department of health and human services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the State Health Officer, North Dakota public health units, American Hospital Association, North Dakota Long Term Care Association, North Dakota Medical Association, North Dakota Nurses Association, North Dakota Nurse Practitioner Association, North Dakota University System institutions of higher education, North Dakota private universities, and the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction.

Filed March 20, 2025

CHAPTER 625

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3015

(Representatives Novak, D. Anderson, Dockter, Hagert, Heinert, J. Olson, Porter,
Tveit)
(Senators Boehm, Patten)

A concurrent resolution urging the Southwest Power Pool and Midcontinent Independent System Operator to promptly and decisively act to maintain the reliability of the bulk power system by addressing market failures that have allowed capacity retirements to outpace replacement.

WHEREAS, the welfare of North Dakota's citizens and its economic security depend on a reliable, affordable, and resilient electric power supply; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has expressed concerns about the reliability and stability of the regional and national electricity grid due to the rapid retirement of dispatchable generation resources, delays in the development of replacement capacity, and the increasing reliance on intermittent energy sources, which collectively pose risks to the ability of regional transmission organizations like Southwest Power Pool and Midcontinent Independent System Operator to ensure consistent and reliable power delivery; and

WHEREAS, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's 2024 Long-Term Reliability Assessment warns that over half of North America faces elevated risks of energy shortages due to increasing demand, rapid generator retirements, and delays in resource development; and

WHEREAS, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator has been identified as a high-risk region, with resource adequacy targets potentially falling short within the next 5 years, while the Southwest Power Pool is also categorized as an elevated-risk region; and

WHEREAS, Midcontinent Independent System Operator and Southwest Power Pool, which serve North Dakota, have experienced repeated maximum generation alerts and load-shedding events in recent years, highlighting the critical need to address resource adequacy and reliability issues; and

WHEREAS, the accelerated retirement of dispatchable base-load generation resources, combined with insufficient replacement capacity, creates a widening reliability gap as weather-dependent resources saturate the grid; and

WHEREAS, announced dispatchable generation retirements in the 15-state Midcontinent Independent System Operator region are projected to exceed 30 gigawatts by 2030, further exacerbating resource adequacy challenges; and

WHEREAS, direct and indirect subsidies for specific energy resources distort market economics, making it difficult for dispatchable base-load generation resources to remain economically viable and accelerating early retirement; and

WHEREAS, Midcontinent Independent System Operator has identified six critical reliability attributes, including availability, energy assurance, fuel assurance, rapid start-up capability, ramp-up capability, and voltage stability, which are essential for maintaining grid reliability; and

WHEREAS, reforming market pricing mechanisms are urgently needed to ensure these critical attributes are appropriately valued, supporting the continued operation of resources necessary for grid reliability and resilience; and

WHEREAS, state and federal renewable energy mandates, while promoting the development of weather-dependent generation, do not fully account for impacts on grid reliability, market distortions, and the availability of dispatchable generation during periods of peak demand and extreme weather; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of President Donald Trump, executive actions, including the "unleashing American energy" executive order, emphasized the importance of maintaining domestic energy reliability, reducing regulatory barriers, and promoting fair competition for all energy resources on a level playing field; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota supports a diversified energy strategy that includes thermal, renewable, and emerging technologies, such as hydrogen and carbon capture, utilization, and storage, to ensure the state and the nation have access to an affordable, reliable, and resilient energy grid;

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

That the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly urges Southwest Power Pool and Midcontinent Independent System Operator to take immediate and decisive actions to maintain the reliability of the bulk power system by addressing market failures that have allowed capacity retirements to outpace replacement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly urges the Public Service Commission and North Dakota Transmission Authority to advocate for policies at Midcontinent Independent System Operator and Southwest Power Pool that fairly compensate dispatchable base-load energy resources, accurately value all generation resources based on contributions to grid reliability, and ensure the availability of generation at all hours to meet demand; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that market structures must reflect and promote a balanced energy mix by valuing thermal, renewable, and emerging resources based on the utility's ability to maintain grid reliability, affordability, and resilience; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Public Service Commission, North Dakota Transmission Authority, each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation, Midcontinent Independent System Operator, and Southwest Power Pool.

Filed March 21, 2025

CHAPTER 626

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3016

(Representatives Novak, D. Anderson, Heinert, J. Olson, Porter)
(Senators Hogue, Patten)

A concurrent resolution recognizing the benefits of enhanced oil recovery and encouraging the State of North Dakota and federal government to maintain favorable policies that support the development of carbon capture technology and utilization of carbon dioxide as a commodity for advancing energy security.

WHEREAS, the Bakken Formation is a world-class energy resource yielding 1.2 million barrels of oil per day; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota's oil industry contributes approximately \$8 million per day in extraction and production tax revenues, \$26 billion since 2008, and over half of total state tax revenues annually; and

WHEREAS, oil and gas tax revenues contribute to the well-being of the state, providing a stable tax base, prospering economy, well-paying jobs, and energy security; and

WHEREAS, current recovery methods produce only a small portion of the Bakken Formation's estimated oil in place; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that utilization of enhanced oil recovery methods could unlock several billion barrels more of incremental oil production, and extend Bakken Formation production by several decades; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota's coal industry supports nearly 12,000 jobs in the state, contributes \$2 billion in gross domestic product, and \$100 million in state and local tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, the coal industry has been a leader in pursuing technologies to capture carbon dioxide from its coal-fired power and gasification facilities; and

WHEREAS, carbon dioxide captured from North Dakota's energy and agriculture facilities is a valuable commodity that will be necessary to achieve full deployment of enhanced oil recovery in North Dakota's oil shale formations and conventional reservoirs; and

WHEREAS, the state has been a leader in investing in research and development to unleash the full potential of all its energy resources, and in creating a regulatory environment that fosters the development of carbon capture, utilization, and storage technologies; and

WHEREAS, successful deployment of enhanced oil recovery will unlock the full potential of the Bakken Formation, enhance North Dakota's coal industry, and support the continued growth of North Dakota's energy industries, supporting the Trump Administration's goals of achieving energy dominance and energy security;

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

That the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly recognize the benefits of enhanced oil recovery and encourage the State of North Dakota and federal government to maintain favorable policies that support the development of carbon capture technology and utilization of carbon dioxide as a commodity for advancing energy security; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the federal government is urged to develop policies that encourage and incentivize utilization of carbon dioxide for enhanced oil recovery; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the federal government is urged to increase its partnership with the State of North Dakota and its energy industries to advance carbon capture technologies and enhanced oil recovery in the Bakken Formation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Department of Energy, the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, and each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

Filed March 21, 2025

CHAPTER 627

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3017

(Representatives Novak, D. Anderson, Dockter, J. Olson, S. Olson, Porter, Tveit)
(Senators Kessel, Patten, Boehm)

A concurrent resolution recognizing December 6th as annual "Miner's Day" to honor the hard work and dedication of coal miners, whose critical efforts provide reliable and affordable energy to millions of people, fuel economic growth, and support the energy security of North Dakota and the region.

WHEREAS, North Dakota's lignite coal industry is a cornerstone of the state's economy, contributing over \$5.5 billion in total business activity, employing 12,000 individuals with some of the highest wages in the state, and generating \$100 million in tax revenue to support schools, infrastructure, and public services; and

WHEREAS, lignite coal generates 55 percent of North Dakota's electricity, providing affordable and reliable power to more than 2 million families and businesses throughout the upper Midwest while supporting regional energy security; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota consistently ranks among the states with the lowest residential electricity rates in the nation, with an average rate of 11.44 cents per kilowatt-hour as of 2025, ranking second-lowest in the United States, largely due to coal serving as the dominant source of electricity generation in the state, which ensures reliability and affordability for residents; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota has an estimated 800-year supply of economically recoverable lignite coal reserves, ensuring long-term energy independence and resource stability for the state and the nation; and

WHEREAS, recent studies by the North Dakota Geological Survey have confirmed the presence of significant concentrations of rare earth elements in the state's lignite coal deposits, including samples that surpass the United States Department of Energy's economic extraction threshold of 300 parts per million; and

WHEREAS, the extraction of critical minerals and rare earth elements from this state's lignite coal seams and associated deposits offers the state an opportunity to diversify its economy, create high-value careers, and establish itself as a leader in this emerging sector; and

WHEREAS, value-added uses of lignite coal, such as activated carbon, synthetic graphite, critical mineral and rare earth element extraction, and advanced materials, demonstrate the versatility and economic potential of coal as a resource that extends beyond power generation; and

WHEREAS, responsible development of these resources can be achieved by ensuring environmental stewardship, protecting freshwater supplies, and supporting land reclamation practices that align with prior land use and productivity; and

WHEREAS, advancements in carbon capture technologies have unlocked opportunities to transform carbon dioxide emissions from coal-based energy production into valuable commodities, including fertilizers, industrial chemicals, enhanced oil recovery products, and low-carbon fuels, which benefit North Dakota's agricultural and industrial sectors; and

WHEREAS, carbon dioxide is critical for plant life and global food production through photosynthesis, and North Dakota's lignite coal industry is well-positioned to support agricultural innovation by converting captured carbon into sustainable agricultural products; and

WHEREAS, the development and deployment of lignite coal technologies create economic diversification, expand market opportunities, and ensure the long-term sustainability of coal as a critical resource for North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, federal regulations have created a de facto ban on the construction of new coal-based power plants by imposing economically unfeasible requirements, jeopardizing the continued operation of existing plants and discouraging private investment; and

WHEREAS, federal policies and tax incentives have provided subsidies to renewable energy resources for over 30 years, creating market imbalances that place coal at a competitive disadvantage and hinder its ability to contribute to a balanced, reliable, and affordable energy mix; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota serves as a model for responsible resource development, consistently reclaiming mined land to a condition equal to or better than its original state and meeting all federal ambient air quality standards, one of only four states to have never violated those standards; and

WHEREAS, affordable, reliable energy is the backbone of established industries in North Dakota, Minnesota, and South Dakota such as agriculture, manufacturing, and energy production and is vital for supporting the growth of emerging technologies and innovations across the Upper Midwest; and

WHEREAS, advancements in energy technologies offer enormous potential to ensure the continued use of lignite coal while reducing emissions and contributing to environmental sustainability; and

WHEREAS, President Donald J. Trump declared a national energy emergency in January 2025, emphasizing the importance of using domestic energy resources, including lignite coal, to strengthen the reliability and affordability of energy for the United States; and

WHEREAS, the administration's "unleashing American energy" executive order calls for the expansion of energy exploration and production on federal lands and waters, reducing barriers to development and promoting the use of reliable resources such as coal; and

WHEREAS, President Donald J. Trump directed the Environmental Protection Agency to review and reconsider the 2009 Endangerment Finding, which classified greenhouse gases as harmful to public health, potentially paving the way for balanced, economically viable regulations that protect both the environment and energy production; and

WHEREAS, the repeal of the Endangerment Finding would eliminate regulatory barriers that have effectively prevented the construction of new coal-based power plants, allowing for the development of efficient, cost-effective, and environmentally responsible coal technologies;

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

That the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly recognizes December 6th as "Miner's Day" to honor the hard work and dedication of coal miners, whose critical efforts provide reliable and affordable energy to millions of people, fuel economic growth, and support the energy security of North Dakota and the region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the federal government is urged to refrain from enacting regulations that jeopardize the reliability and affordability of electric power in North Dakota, while supporting policies that improve market conditions for base-load electricity, encourage the expansion of generation resources, and accelerate research, development, and deployment of technologies essential to the lignite plant of the future; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the federal government is urged to review and repeal the 2009 Endangerment Finding to enable a balanced regulatory framework that supports coal-based energy production and economic growth while addressing environmental concerns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the federal government is urged to revise policies and regulations that unfairly disadvantage coal-based energy production, ensuring a level playing field that allows all energy resources, including coal, natural gas, nuclear, and renewables, to compete fairly in the electricity marketplace; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the federal government work collaboratively with the state of North Dakota, the North Dakota Congressional Delegation, and the lignite coal industry to develop regulatory frameworks based on sound science, the status of existing technologies, and economically feasible timelines; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that federal agencies increase their partnership with North Dakota to accelerate technological advancements in critical and rare earth minerals, carbon capture and other innovations to ensure the continued operation of coal-based facilities while reducing emissions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretary of the Department of Energy, the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, and each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

Filed March 21, 2025

CHAPTER 628

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3018

(Representatives Beltz, Brandenburg, Frelich, Grueneich, Mitskog, Schreiber-Beck,
Swiontek, Weisz)
(Senators Sorvaag, Thomas, Wanzek)

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to consider studying water and wetlands regulations and the taxation of inundated lands in the state.

WHEREAS, the management of water and wetlands resources is a complex issue with significant implications for public health, economic development, and agriculture; and

WHEREAS, determining the boundaries of specific wetlands is imperative to protect both public and private property losses; and

WHEREAS, the jurisdiction over water and wetlands often is unclear and involves multiple levels of government, including federal, state, and local agencies; and

WHEREAS, overlapping jurisdictions can create confusion, delays, and inconsistencies in the regulation and management of water and wetlands; and

WHEREAS, boards of county commissioners are authorized to remove from the tax rolls all inundated lands, often resulting in inconsistent application; and

WHEREAS, seasonal wet areas and meltwater concentrations are considered jurisdictional wetlands by some authorities; and

WHEREAS, despite being a jurisdictional wetland, these areas are nuisance areas where crops cannot grow for most of the year, and only become productive acres after the initial spring runoff; and

WHEREAS, seasonal wet areas can create concentrations of salts and other substances that permanently impair soil and soil productivity; and

WHEREAS, seasonal wet areas become dry in the summer and serve little value as a wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive study of the jurisdictional framework is necessary to identify potential conflicts, overlaps, and gaps in authority and tax treatment; and

WHEREAS, a study will provide valuable information to the Legislative Assembly in developing effective and efficient policies for the protection and management of water and wetlands resources; and

WHEREAS, addressing confusion and property disputes caused by the declaration of navigability and property titles deriving from patents issued by the United States will provide valuable information to the Legislative Assembly concerning the determination of lawful ownership and tax treatment;

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

That the Legislative Management shall consider studying water and wetlands regulations and the taxation of inundated lands in the state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study must include a review of the different methods to assess and document boundaries for wetlands; an examination of the regulation of water, wetlands, and inundated lands laws of other states; an inventory of all federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and policies relating to the jurisdiction of water and wetlands; an analysis of the environmental protection and public health jurisdictional framework, including an identification of potential conflicts, overlaps, and gaps in authority; and recommendations for improving the clarity, consistency, and efficiency of the jurisdictional framework in water management; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study also must explore viable legal options to fill and drain nuisance areas, examine the impacts of seasonal wet areas on agriculture productivity and soil health, and identify the value of these areas to resident wildlife; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Management report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the Seventieth Legislative Assembly.

Filed April 22, 2025

CHAPTER 629

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3019

(Representatives Holle, Bahl, Henderson, Koppelman, Rohr, Louser, Novak, Rios)
(Senators Hogue, Magrum, Thomas, Cory)

A concurrent resolution congratulating Donald J. Trump on his inauguration as President of the United States.

WHEREAS, the citizens of the United States, including the steadfast people of North Dakota, have exercised their constitutional right to vote and Donald J. Trump has been duly elected as the 47th President of the United States, with J.D. Vance elected as Vice President; and

WHEREAS, President Trump secured a resounding landslide victory in North Dakota, winning 51 of the 53 counties in the state; and

WHEREAS, President Trump survived an assassination attempt on July 13, 2024, sustaining a gunshot wound to his right ear, and a second assassination attempt was thwarted on September 15, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly wholeheartedly supports President Trump's unwavering commitment to strengthening the United States through sound governance, a robust economy, and the promotion of unity among its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the state of North Dakota stands in support of President Trump's border policies, including efforts to secure the southern border and enforce immigration laws, aiming to protect the nation's sovereignty, ensure public safety, and uphold the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, President Trump's leadership and commitment to conservative principles resonate with the citizens of North Dakota, reflecting shared values of individual liberty, economic prosperity, and steadfast adherence to the founding principles of our nation; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota recognizes the paramount importance of supporting the Office of the President to ensure a prosperous, secure, and sovereign future for all Americans;

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

That the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly proudly congratulates President Donald J. Trump on his inauguration and expresses confidence in his ability to lead the nation during his term with strength and integrity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State deliver a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States Donald J. Trump, to the Vice President of the United States J.D. Vance, and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

Filed March 21, 2025

CHAPTER 630

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3024

(Representative Kempenich)

A concurrent resolution urging the United States Congress to transfer the management of all national grassland property within the state from the United States Forest Service to the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

WHEREAS, North Dakota is home to over 1 million acres of land within national grasslands administered by the United States Forest Service; and

WHEREAS, the United States Forest Service provides sustainable management, conservation, use, and stewardship of natural and cultural resources in national forests in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act [50 Stat. 522, 7 U.S.C. 1010, et seq.], which created the national grasslands, was intended to assist in controlling soil erosion, reforestation, preserving natural resources, developing and protecting recreational facilities, mitigating floods, developing energy resources, conserving surface and surface moisture, protecting the watersheds of navigable streams, and protecting public lands; and

WHEREAS, the Natural Resources Conservation Service assists local operations to sustain productive agricultural lands and improve the quality of air, water, soil, and habitat; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Natural Resources Conservation Service is closely aligned to implement the intent of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act and manage the national grasslands within this state;

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

That the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly urges Congress to transfer the management of all national grassland lands within the state from the United States Forest Service to the Natural Resources Conservation Service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Interior, and each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

Filed March 21, 2025

CHAPTER 631

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3025

(Representatives Hendrix, Koppelman, Marschall, Morton)
(Senators Braunberger, Roers, Powers)

A concurrent resolution honoring the police and first responders of Fargo, North Dakota.

WHEREAS, on July 14, 2023, Fargo police officers and first responders courageously responded to a tragic shooting incident that claimed a precious life and endangered public safety; and

WHEREAS, Officers Andrew Dotas and Tyler Hawes, along with civilian Karlee Koswick, were injured during this incident, demonstrating bravery under extreme circumstances; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Zach Robinson, with skill and disciplined focus while under the most difficult of circumstances, exercised amazing heroism in neutralizing the threat posed to the Fargo community; and

WHEREAS, the swift actions of first responders prevented further loss of life and ensured public safety during this critical event; and

WHEREAS, Officer Jake Wallin of the Fargo Police Department made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty while protecting his community;

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

That the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly honors Officer Jake Wallin for his heroism and extends heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues; commends Officer Andrew Dotas, Officer Tyler Hawes, and Sergeant Zach Robinson, for their bravery and resilience in the face of danger; expresses sincerest gratitude to our nurses, doctors, and all other first responders for their dedication to serving and protecting the Fargo community; and encourages continued support for law enforcement officers and first responders who risk their lives daily to ensure public safety; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the Fargo Police Department, Officer Andrew Dotas, Officer Tyler Hawes, Sergeant Zach Robinson, Karlee Koswick, and the fiancé and family of Officer Jake Wallin.

Filed April 17, 2025

CHAPTER 632

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3027

(Representatives Lefor, Ista)

A concurrent resolution declaring February 13, 2025, as "Giving Hearts Day."

WHEREAS, Giving Hearts Day was started in 2008 by the Dakota Medical Foundation and Impact Foundation as the first 24-hour regional giving event of its kind, with the Alex Stern Family Foundation joining in 2014; and

WHEREAS, givingheartsday.org is a gateway for North Dakota citizens and beyond to support hundreds of charitable organizations working to improve health and quality of life across our state; and

WHEREAS, the Dakota Medical Foundation, Impact Foundation, and Alex Stern Family Foundation jointly support the training and coaching of nonprofit organizations to dramatically improve and expand their impact in their communities; and

WHEREAS, since inception, Giving Hearts Day has raised more than \$195 million to support regional charities, and last year, 612 charities received \$29.3 million through 40,000 caring donors who gave 87,000 gifts, made 1,722 volunteer pledges, and donated more than 5,000 pounds of food and other goods; and

WHEREAS, Giving Hearts Day 2025 includes nearly 625 charitable causes, and offers more than \$250 million in awards and incentives spanning across the entire state of North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, Giving Hearts Day has set a bold goal to build the most generous region in the nation by 2028, supporting North Dakota in becoming the number one state for volunteerism and donated goods and making Giving Hearts Day the number one giving day in the nation;

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

That the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly declares February 13, 2025, as "Giving Hearts Day"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the Dakota Medical Foundation, Impact Foundation, and the Alex Stern Family Foundation.

Filed February 13, 2025

CHAPTER 633

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3028

(Representatives Vetter, Christianson, D. Johnston, Klemin, O'Brien, Satrom,
Schauer)
(Senators Cory, Myrdal, Luick, Rummel, Paulson)

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to consider studying human trafficking victim service and re-entry programs.

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a crime involving the exploitation of an individual for purposes of compelled labor or commercial sexual acts through the use of force, fraud, or coercion; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking causes a loss of basic human rights, severe mental health issues, and substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is identified as a critical issue in North Dakota, impacting hundreds of victims annually;

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

That the Legislative Management consider studying human trafficking victim service and re-entry programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the study include an assessment of current human trafficking victim re-entry services, including services to protect victims from predatory offenders, policies, practices, data and resource allocation with the goal of identifying opportunities to implement services to help victims effectively re-enter society; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in conducting the study, the Legislative Management shall seek input from law enforcement, the Attorney General's office, nonprofit organizations, and other stakeholders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Management report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the Seventieth Legislative Assembly.

Filed April 17, 2025

CHAPTER 634

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3029

(Representatives Dobervich, Ista, Davis)
(Senators Braunberger, Boschee)

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to consider studying inpatient services, community-based services, and existing waivers for treatment and support of individuals with neurological conditions and behavioral symptoms that put the individual at risk for incarceration, inappropriate placement, or homelessness.

WHEREAS, the 69th Legislative Assembly recognizes that behavioral symptoms of neurological conditions often result in incarceration, inappropriate placement in geriatric psychiatry care facilities, long-term placement at the state hospital, and high rates of homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the 69th Legislative Assembly recognizes the value in collecting and analyzing data regarding existing inpatient services, community-based services, and waivers for treatment and support of individuals with neurological conditions;

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

That the Legislative Management consider studying inpatient services, community-based services, and existing waivers for treatment and support of individuals with neurological conditions and behavioral symptoms that put the individual at risk for incarceration, inappropriate placement, or homelessness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the study include an analysis of available data, identification of gaps in services, a review of appropriate treatment and support services, and recommendations for a waiver program, new level of care, and appropriate placement guidelines, to fund and deliver services to meet the care and support needs of individuals living with a neurological condition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Management report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the Seventieth Legislative Assembly.

Filed March 27, 2025

CHAPTER 635

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3030

(Representatives Satrom, Grueneich, Klemin, Ostlie)

(Senators Conley, Hogue, Dwyer)

(Approved by the Delayed Bills Committee)

A concurrent resolution to strengthen the sister-state relations between the State of North Dakota and Taiwan and to reaffirm support for Taiwan's international participation.

WHEREAS, North Dakota and Taiwan have enjoyed a mutually beneficial sister-state relationship since 1986; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan shares the same values of freedom, democracy, rule of law, and respect for human rights as North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota and Taiwan have enjoyed a mutually beneficial bilateral trade relationship; and

WHEREAS, negotiations for a fair and reciprocal bilateral trade agreement between Taiwan and the United States are an important step toward further strengthening of bilateral trade and mutual investment between North Dakota and Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan, as a responsible stakeholder in the international community, is seeking to meaningfully participate in the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the International Criminal Police Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity launched by the United States;

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

That the Sixty-ninth Legislative Assembly commends Taiwan's vibrant democracy, celebrates the 39th anniversary of North Dakota's sister-state relationship with Taiwan, recognizes North Dakota's trade relationship and academic exchange program with Taiwan, supports the signing of the Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation between the United States and Taiwan to further bilateral investment activities, and advocates for Taiwan's inclusion in the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity and international organizations that are important to the health, safety, and well-being of Taiwan's people and the world; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, United States Secretary of State, Governor of the Taiwan Provincial Government, Prime Minister of Australia, Prime Minister of Brunei Darussalam, President of India, President of Indonesia, Prime Minister of Japan, President of the Republic of Korea, Prime Minister of Malaysia, Prime Minister of New Zealand, President of the Philippines, President of the Republic of Singapore, Prime Minister of Thailand, President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Chair of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organization, and the Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Denver, Colorado.

Filed April 3, 2025