

Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly, State of North Dakota, begun in the Capitol in the City of Bismarck, on Tuesday, the fifth day of January, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3029
(Representatives Nelson, Warner, D. Johnson)
(Senator Naaden)**

A concurrent resolution urging Congress to aggressively pursue legislation that will permit substantially similar crop protection products registered in Canada to be purchased and used by farmers in the United States; to direct the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to work toward the harmonization of crop protection product legislation, and in the event substantial progress is not made, to disallow the importation of any commodity into this country if the commodity contains any crop protection product not approved for use in this country; and to require that the manufacturers of crop protection products publicly justify any price discrepancies between similar products sold in Canada and in the United States.

WHEREAS, farmers in this state use crop protection products in a safe and responsible manner; and

WHEREAS, crop protection products are a necessary component of an integrated pest management system, especially with respect to minor crops; and

WHEREAS, the availability of crop protection products helps to diversify the agricultural economic base; and

WHEREAS, agricultural products are imported into the United States after having been exposed to crop protection products that have not been approved by the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; and

WHEREAS, agricultural products imported into the United States after having been exposed to agricultural pesticides that have not been approved by the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may have chemical residues that could pose a threat to the public health; and

WHEREAS, the United States and Canada do not recognize each other's scientific data generated for use in the labeling of crop protection products; and

WHEREAS, the North American Free Trade Agreement allows large amounts of agricultural commodities to cross the border between the United States and Canada; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of agricultural commodities entering the United States through North Dakota is particularly high compared to those entering through other states; and

WHEREAS, many of the agricultural commodities entering the United States through North Dakota are produced with crop protection products that are not available to producers in this state or which are available at substantially higher prices than those charged in Canada; and

WHEREAS, farmers and ranchers in this state suffer economically when they must compete with Canadian producers; and

WHEREAS, the cost of production for Canadian producers is significantly less, due in part to the availability of crop protection products at prices substantially lower than those charged producers in this state; and

WHEREAS, the North American Free Trade Agreement set as a goal the complete harmonization of crop protection product registrations between the countries participating in the agreement; and

WHEREAS, the goal of harmonization has been ignored by the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Congress of the United States through its passage of the Food Quality Protection Act; and

WHEREAS, United States Senators Dorgan and Conrad have introduced legislation that would permit the registration and use in this state of Canadian crop protection products;

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

That the Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to aggressively pursue legislation that will permit substantially similar crop protection products registered in Canada to be purchased and used by farmers in the United States; to direct the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to work toward the harmonization of crop protection product legislation, and in the event substantial progress is not made, to disallow the importation of any commodity into this country if the commodity contains any crop protection product not approved for use in this country; and to require that the manufacturers of crop protection products publicly justify any price discrepancies between similar products sold in Canada and in the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the Secretary of Agriculture, the chairmen of the Senate and House Agriculture Committees, and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 1999,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State