

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

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4025
(Senators Lyson, Kelsh, Wanzek)
(Representatives Drovdal, Rennerfeldt, Solberg)

A concurrent resolution urging Congress to analyze the operating environment of the Farm Service Agency and ensure that attempts at efficiency recognize customer needs and expectations.

WHEREAS, the Secretary of Agriculture has required that there be significant reductions in the United States Department of Agriculture staff at the national, state, and local levels; and

WHEREAS, between 1993 and 1996, federal staff in Farm Service Agency offices was reduced by 16 percent and county staff was reduced by 15 percent; and

WHEREAS, before 1993, the Farm Service Agency offices had 14,953 nonfederal staff, and by the year 2002, there will be only 4,879 nonfederal staff for county offices, or a reduction of 66 percent; and

WHEREAS, the decline in staff is greater than the anticipated decline in workload; and

WHEREAS, in seeking efficiencies, the Secretary of Agriculture has determined that it is preferable to have fewer and larger offices that allow for more specialized services and greater economies of scale; and

WHEREAS, this state has been notified of the intention to maintain only three guaranteed loanmaking and servicing centers - one in Fargo, one in Minot, and one in Bismarck; and

WHEREAS, this proposed organizational plan must consider the unique demographics of this state to be efficient and practicable for our citizens;

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

That the Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to analyze the operating environment of the Farm Service Agency and ensure that attempts at efficiency recognize customer needs and expectations; 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.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

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

Secretary of State