

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.

Introduced by

Senator Mathern

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the creation of local passenger
2 rail transportation within this state.

3 **WHEREAS**, the cost of transportation by automobile has greatly increased due to the
4 increase in the price of petroleum products; and

5 **WHEREAS**, passenger rail provides a fuel-efficient transportation system, helping to
6 reduce America's dependence on foreign oil; and

7 **WHEREAS**, shifting transportation to rail service will lessen the burden of transportation
8 on the overstressed highway system infrastructure in this state; and

9 **WHEREAS**, railroad tracks unite many of the small towns in this state with cities that
10 contain shopping and medical facilities; and

11 **WHEREAS**, some of these cities connect to the Empire Builder Amtrak service
12 providing access to major cities in the United States; and

13 **WHEREAS**, this state is a member of the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact,
14 the purpose of which is to promote passenger rail service in the Midwest, and an effort to
15 combine a seamless local rail transit system with a regional system would provide an
16 energy-efficient and cost-effective means of travel throughout the region and, combined with
17 the Amtrak system, throughout the nation;

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

20 That the Sixty-first Legislative Assembly directs the Legislative Council to study the
21 creation of local passenger rail transportation within this state; and

22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Council report its findings and
23 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to
24 the Sixty-second Legislative Assembly.