Sixty-second Legislative Assembly of North Dakota In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 4, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3032 (Representatives Weiler, Weisz, Onstad) (Senators Freborg, Lyson, Warner)

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Management to study the needs of, economic values of, and methods to improve access roadways to recreational, tourist, and historical sites in North Dakota.

WHEREAS, the income and available funding through the special road fund created under North Dakota Century Code Section 24-02-37 is inadequate to meet the local and statewide needs to improve access roadways to recreational, tourist, and historical sites; and

WHEREAS, many existing access roadways are in a significant state of disrepair and are in need of improvement—the condition typically relating to limited maintenance, inadequate base materials and surfacing, narrow widths, and noncompliance with safety standards; and

WHEREAS, county and township funding is inadequate and severely stressed due to other priority projects and needs, limiting local governments' ability to make the necessary investment to improve these access roadways; and

WHEREAS, access roadways to recreational, tourist, and historical sites represent a local and statewide value, as well as a substantial opportunity, as improvements will lead to increased use resulting in added value and income to the local and state economies; and

WHEREAS, the projected population increases in this state, related to the expanding energy industry and overall economic growth, will result in an increasing demand for recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the condition, use, need, and value of each access roadway varies; therefore, alternatives related to roadway surfacing, construction methodologies, and lifecycle costs should be evaluated to determine which are most applicable to the various locations;

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

That the Legislative Management study the needs of, economic values of, and methods to improve access roadways to recreational, tourist, and historical sites in North Dakota; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this study focus on designated or named public or privately developed recreational areas, potential funding requirements through the special road fund or other appropriate funding method for the identified access roadway improvements, and the ability of the local governmental entities to operate and maintain these improvements when completed; 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 Sixty-third Legislative Assembly.