

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4025

Introduced by

Senators Lyson, Kelsh, Wanzek

Representatives Drovdal, Rennerfeldt, Solberg

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 **WHEREAS**, this state has been notified of the intention to maintain only three
17 guaranteed loanmaking and servicing centers - one in Fargo, one in Grand Forks, and one in
18 Bismarck; and

19 **WHEREAS**, this proposed organizational scheme completely disregards the needs of
20 the western portion of this state and would prove to be highly inefficient and impracticable for
21 many of our citizens;

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

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

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