

**Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 9, 2001**

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4015
(Senators Bowman, Andrist, Lyson)
(Representatives Drovdal, Wald, Weiler)

A concurrent resolution urging the President and the Congress of the United States to develop a national energy policy for our nation that allows responsible access to public land and to implement laws and regulations that promote the multiple use concept on public lands across our state and nation allowing all users to benefit from the public lands.

WHEREAS, public lands in North Dakota are extremely important to the people of this state and throughout the history of this state have been primarily managed under the multiple use management concept; and

WHEREAS, farming and ranching are important aspects of the economy of North Dakota and a comprehensive, well-managed road system is important for the effective management of ranch operations and to ensure the safety and well-being of people who live and work in the national grasslands; and

WHEREAS, the state's law governing section lines and the county's ownership interest in minerals, roads, rights of way, and easements are legal rights that require protection and consideration in determining the management and use of the national grasslands; and

WHEREAS, the oil and gas industry in North Dakota has explored on and drilled in the national grasslands for the past 50 years and restored over 500 wells, and 480 miles of roads representing more than 5,500 acres have been returned to vegetation after the oil and gas resources were depleted, enabling the state to benefit from a valuable natural resource; and

WHEREAS, the nation is on the verge of an energy crisis with 67 percent of our oil reserves lying under federal lands while access to those lands has been decreased by 60 percent during the past 10 years; and

WHEREAS, the roadless plan for the national grasslands will have a continued adverse impact on the counties and states where the national grasslands and the national forests are located;

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

That the Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly urges the President and the Congress of the United States to develop a national energy policy for our nation that allows responsible access to public land and to implement laws and regulations that promote the multiple use concept on public lands across our state and nation allowing all users to benefit from the public lands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of the Interior, the Chief of the United States Forest Service, the supervisor of the Dakota Prairie Grasslands office, 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 _____, 2001,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State