

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4026

Introduced by

Senators Krauter, Heitkamp

1 A concurrent resolution urging Congress to address the flaws in the current freedom to farm
2 legislation, to support legislation such as the farm income and trade equity act introduced by
3 Senator Conrad, which would restore income protection for this nation's farmers, and to support
4 proposals put forth by Senator Dorgan and Congressman Pomeroy, which would correct the
5 loan rate formulas of the current freedom to farm legislation.

6 **WHEREAS**, the prices for many commodities grown by farmers in this state have for
7 several years been at historically low levels; and

8 **WHEREAS**, emergency government assistance payments to farmers in this state have
9 over the last three years exceeded \$1 billion; and

10 **WHEREAS**, in 1996, government subsidies accounted for 13 percent of total farm
11 income; and

12 **WHEREAS**, in 1999, government subsidies accounted for 42 percent of total farm
13 income; and

14 **WHEREAS**, statistics released by the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute at
15 the University of Missouri indicate that if the current agricultural policy is not changed, net farm
16 income will by the year 2009 fall to \$37 billion, which is \$17 billion less than the 1996 level; and

17 **WHEREAS**, freedom to farm legislation eliminated the countercyclical price protection
18 for farmers that was a mainstay of earlier farm programs and agricultural policy;

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

21 That the Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to
22 address the flaws in the current freedom to farm legislation, to support legislation such as the
23 Farm Income and Trade Equity Act introduced by Senator Conrad, which would restore income
24 protection for this nation's farmers, and to support proposals put forth by Senator Dorgan and

1 Congressman Pomeroy, which would correct the loan rate formulas of the current freedom to
2 farm legislation; and

3 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this
4 resolution to the President of the United States, the majority and minority leaders of the United
5 States Senate and the House of Representatives, the chairman of the Senate Agriculture
6 Committee, the chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, and to each member of the
7 North Dakota Congressional Delegation.