

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4029

Introduced by

Senators Lyson, Flakoll, Hacker, Krebsbach

Representatives Clark, Iverson

1 A concurrent resolution urging Congress and the President to provide at least \$1.8 billion for
2 Amtrak in fiscal year 2006 to sustain and improve the national intercity passenger rail system.

3 **WHEREAS**, Amtrak annually provides intercity passenger rail service to over 25 million
4 Americans residing in 46 states, including as many as 89,319 passengers traveling to and from
5 this state each year; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Amtrak through the Empire Builder has provided over 75 years of service
7 for many rural North Dakota residents and represents the only major intercity transportation link
8 to the rest of the country; and

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

11 **WHEREAS**, Congress and the President have undercapitalized the national Amtrak
12 system for decades, failed to provide passenger rail with a dedicated and secure source of
13 funding as enjoyed by other modes of transportation, and has not supported passenger rail as
14 have many other nations; and

15 **WHEREAS**, a comparable national passenger rail system in the world has not
16 succeeded without operating subsidies;

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

19 That the Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly urges Congress and the President to provide
20 at least \$1.8 billion for Amtrak in fiscal year 2006 to sustain and improve our national intercity
21 passenger rail system; and

22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly urges Congress
23 and the President to reject efforts to eliminate long-distance routes or breakup and privatize
24 Amtrak's intercity passenger rail operation; and

- 1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this
- 2 resolution to the President of the United States and to each member of the North Dakota
- 3 Congressional Delegation.