

**Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 4, 2005**

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4029
(Senators Lyson, Flakoll, Hacker, Krebsbach)
(Representatives Clark, Iverson)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the President of the United States 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 _____, 2005,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State