

Introduced by

Senators Marcellais, Heckaman, Kannianen, Schaible

Representative Trottier

(Approved by the Delayed Bills Committee)

1 A concurrent resolution urging Congress to pass the North Dakota Trust Lands Completion Act.

2 **WHEREAS**, upon statehood in 1889, North Dakota was granted 2.6 million acres of
3 scattered lands and minerals with the purpose of funding education and public needs within the
4 state; and

5 **WHEREAS**, establishment of tribal nations and the Little Missouri National Grasslands
6 trapped state-owned lands and minerals within these boundaries which often are very difficult
7 for North Dakota to access and manage; and

8 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota currently holds over 130,000 acres of minerals and over 31,000
9 surface acres within tribal nations alone, which are largely unable to be developed by the state
10 pursuant to North Dakota's mandate to generate income for schools, universities, and other
11 public purposes; and

12 **WHEREAS**, authorizing North Dakota to relinquish North Dakota land grant parcels located
13 within tribal nations and the grasslands and to select other federal lands or minerals in lieu of
14 not receiving full access to and use of the original land since North Dakota attained statehood
15 will fulfill the promise of land and minerals to North Dakota, provide to Indian tribes greater tribal
16 sovereignty and control of lands and minerals within tribal nations, and provide for greater
17 conservation and preservation of the grasslands; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Congress should authorize North Dakota to relinquish the lands and minerals
19 located within tribal nations and the grasslands; and to select in lieu of the relinquished land
20 other federal lands or minerals within North Dakota of equal value;

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

23 That the Sixty-seventh Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to
24 pass the North Dakota Trust Lands Completion Act; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution
2 to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of
3 Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, the United States
4 Secretary of the Interior, and each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.