Sixty-second
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3033

Introduced by

Representatives Grande, Boe

Senators Andrist, Fischer

A concurrent resolution recognizing the indispensable role of nuclear energy to a comprehensive, integrated United States economic, energy security, and environmental strategy and supporting a host of federal and state policy initiatives to spur a new wave of nuclear plant development.

WHEREAS, America's 104 nuclear power plants generate 20 percent of the electricity for our homes and businesses, around the clock, without emitting pollutants or greenhouse gases into the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, the nuclear industry's continually improving safety record, strong and growing public support, steadily improving performance, and indispensable role as a component of United States energy security and environmental strategies has bolstered the industry's expansion plans, and prompted submission of applications to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to build 22 new nuclear plants; and

WHEREAS, a new nuclear power plant will provide employment for as many as 2,400 workers during a four-year construction phase, with roughly 800 permanent, direct support and operations jobs upon completion which cannot be offshored, while decreasing our dependence on foreign oil; and

WHEREAS, anticipation of a new wave of nuclear plant construction--four to eight new plants are expected to be completed by 2020--already has spurred private investment of more than $4 billion and creation of 16,000 new jobs in just the past several years in the domestic nuclear industry construction, components manufacturing, and service sectors--the true "green jobs" that many policymakers seek to create in a transitioning United States economy; and

WHEREAS, the nuclear industry is working with community colleges and universities around the country to develop and implement education and training programs for enabling more students to enter the nuclear workforce and benefit from good jobs, excellent benefits, and community enhancement; and

WHEREAS, policies have been adopted at the federal level to assist the nuclear power and supplier industries in embarking on a vigorous expansion program, particularly the Energy Policy Act of 2005 Title XVII clean energy loan guarantee program, while insulating federal taxpayers from project risk; and

WHEREAS, various state legislation and regulation has been enacted across this nation, including favorable tax policy, project permitting and siting, early cost recovery for new project construction, and defining nuclear as an eligible technology under an advanced energy portfolio standard, all with the intent of encouraging new nuclear development and reducing final project costs; and

WHEREAS, at various nuclear power plants in other northern climates of the United States, commerce and residents reap the benefits due to the thermal energy production of these plants which is used to enhance fish populations and prevent ice jams and flooding, in agreements and coordination with the United States Army Corps of Engineers; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Energy is authorized to provide $18.5 billion in loan guarantee volume to fund the first three to four new nuclear projects to provide tangible energy security, environmental, economic, and social benefits to the nation; and

WHEREAS, the United States commercial nuclear industry continues to pursue a comprehensive integrated strategy of used fuel management that includes safe and secure, ongoing, onsite fuel storage; potential interim fuel storage in willing host communities; research of recycling technologies to maximize nuclear fuel's energy potential and eventually close the nuclear fuel cycle by an economical, proliferation-resistant method; and eventual permanent disposal of some fuel products in one or more repositories;

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

That the Sixty-second Legislative Assembly supports the further development of safe, secure, and economically beneficial new nuclear plants in the United States and North Dakota with renewed urgency to enhance our energy security, help the nation reach its environmental and clean air objectives, and provide support for strong economies and develop thousands of well-paying jobs and provide educational opportunities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sixty-second Legislative Assembly urges Congress and the President to pursue a host of federal initiatives and policies to spur construction of the

first wave of new nuclear plants, including nuclear energy production facilities within the state of North Dakota, and develop advanced nuclear technologies. These initiatives should include:

Providing financing assistance for new nuclear plant construction by significantly increasing the current authorized loan guarantee program above $18.5 billion while insulating federal taxpayers from risk; and

Developing a more stable, long-term project financing platform along the lines of the clean energy deployment administration concept now under consideration by Congress; and

Creating federal tax incentives to accelerate development of the critical workforce and manufacturing capabilities that could create tens of thousands of United States jobs associated with new nuclear projects and reclaimed American leadership of the nuclear component and services industries; and

Developing a more efficient and transparent licensing process for advanced reactor designs by urging the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to reduce the overall licensing review time by eliminating redundancies and duplication in the licensing process for the second wave of standardized plants, while improving the transparency of the process and retaining effective public participation; and

Providing direction to the United States government's used fuel management program by encouraging the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's Nuclear Future to maintain safe and secure, ongoing, onsite fuel storage; encourage development of interim fuel storage within willing host communities; research recycling technologies to maximize nuclear fuel's energy potential and eventually close the nuclear fuel cycle by an economical, proliferation-resistant method; eventually site one or more permanent disposal repositories and provide a statutory finding of waste confidence; and also provide financial incentives for development of interim storage facilities; and

Supporting nuclear energy research and development by creating a national nuclear energy council and authorizing multiyear programs and appropriating adequate funding for research and development programs to demonstrate advanced nuclear fuel cycles and encourage government-private sector cost-shared programs for development; Nuclear Regulatory Commission certification; and licensing of two small, scalable, innovative modular reactor designs; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State transmit copies of this resolution
2 to the President of the United States, each member of the North Dakota Congressional
3 Delegation, the North Dakota Public Service Commission, and the commissioner of the North
4 Dakota Department of Commerce.