

Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly, State of North Dakota, begun in the Capitol in the City of Bismarck, on Monday, the sixth day of January, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3043
(Representatives Wald, Carlson, Gerntholz, Keiser, Tollefson)

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study the feasibility and desirability of implementing hail suppression programs for the reduction of property damage in urban and rural areas and funding the programs through property and casualty line insurance premium taxes.

WHEREAS, county-sponsored summertime cloud seeding operations to mitigate hail damage have been conducted in North Dakota since the 1960s; and

WHEREAS, evaluations show strong evidence of the benefits within cloud seeding target areas, including 45 percent reductions in crop hail damage and six percent increases in wheat production; and

WHEREAS, the technology developed through combined research and operational efforts in this state has been and continues to be successfully applied and developed by a native North Dakota company in numerous other projects elsewhere in other states, provinces, and countries; and

WHEREAS, the domestic property and casualty insurance industry of Alberta, Canada, has joined with a native North Dakota company in funding and implementing a five-year pilot program for the suppression of property and casualty hail damage within major metropolitan target areas, including the cities of Calgary and Red Deer; and

WHEREAS, the domestic property and casualty insurance industry of this state has suffered considerable hail losses in recent years attributable to urban hailstorms in Bismarck, Grand Forks, and Minot, and as a result some insurance companies are withdrawing from the North Dakota market; and

WHEREAS, if hail continues to strike larger urban areas, it is likely additional insurance companies will withdraw from the North Dakota market and premiums and deductibles will continue to increase;

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

That the Legislative Council study the feasibility desirability of implementing hail suppression programs for the reduction of property damage in urban and rural areas and funding the programs through property and casualty line insurance premium taxes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislative Council report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 1997,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State