

**Sixty-first Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 6, 2009**

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3039
(Representatives Belter, Brandenburg)
(Senator Klein)

A concurrent resolution urging the President and Congress to develop energy resources on the nation's Outer Continental Shelf, promote domestic energy production, and to not impose additional taxes on America's energy producers.

WHEREAS, the congressional moratorium on the Outer Continental Shelf ended on September 30, 2008; and

WHEREAS, Americans are suffering from highly volatile energy prices; and

WHEREAS, America needs a comprehensive energy policy that recognizes the roles that all forms of energy can play; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of Interior, there are an estimated 86 billion barrels of oil and 420 trillion cubic feet of natural gas on the Outer Continental Shelves; and

WHEREAS, the nation's farming, ranching, and business sectors depend on a reliable and affordable supply of energy to run equipment, fertilize crops, and transport products to the market; and

WHEREAS, offshore oil drilling would create new jobs that often pay well above the national average; and

WHEREAS, production of oil and natural gas has brought billions of dollars in revenue to state and federal governments; and

WHEREAS, new drilling techniques and environmentally sound technologies have made drilling and production methods that practically eliminate spills from offshore platforms; and

WHEREAS, America's energy producers and North Dakota's oil and gas industry invest billions of dollars into research and development of new energy technologies to make exploration in the Outer Continental Shelf and the Bakken Shale Formation economical; and

WHEREAS, the administration's proposal of billions of dollars in new taxes on America's oil and gas industry will discourage investment in new energy technologies and exploration, resulting in a loss of jobs, and more price volatility in energy markets; and

WHEREAS, the imposition of a windfall profits tax, or the elimination of incentives to encourage energy production, on oil and natural gas companies will lead to decreased supply and increased prices; and

WHEREAS, safe and responsible development and production of domestic energy resources will provide economic benefits, enhance national security, reduce dependence on foreign sources of energy, and encourage research and development of new energy technologies;

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

That the Sixty-first Legislative Assembly strongly urges the President and Congress to explore and develop oil and natural gas resources in the Outer Continental Shelf, promote domestic energy production, and to not impose additional taxes on America's energy producers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the President, the North Dakota Congressional Delegation, and the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2009,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State