

Introduced by

Representatives Schmidt, Hatlestad, J. Kelsh, Steiner

Senators Larsen, Miller

1 A concurrent resolution urging the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources
2 Conservation Service to continue the present cooperative agreement process at a \$10,000
3 funding level; allow continuation of local decisionmaking by resource conservation and
4 development councils, including implementation of community development projects, for as long
5 as Congress funds the Resource Conservation and Development program; and to allow a
6 resource conservation and development coordinator colocated with a North Dakota regional
7 council to maintain that colocation.

8 **WHEREAS**, resource conservation and development councils play an important role in the
9 conservation, development, and utilization of natural resources; and

10 **WHEREAS**, resource conservation and development councils work to improve the general
11 level of economic activity and enhance the environment and standard of living in all
12 communities, provide a system of rural development to encourage the wise use of natural
13 resources, and improve the quality of life in America; and

14 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota has eight authorized councils in the state; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation
16 Service has developed, funded, and signed cooperative agreements, in accordance with
17 Natural Resources Conservation Service policy, with each resource conservation and
18 development council at a constant financial level of \$10,000, which allows the council to be the
19 local decisionmaking body to implement these cooperative agreements; and

20 **WHEREAS**, resource conservation and development councils have utilized \$42,000 of
21 cooperative agreement funds to generate \$2.2 million of projects in North Dakota, including
22 projects with the state's Indian nations; and

23 **WHEREAS**, four of the eight councils have established local offices that house a United
24 States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service employee providing

1 technical assistance on a daily basis as directed by the council and functioning within a local
2 partnership with regional councils;

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

5 That the Sixty-second Legislative Assembly urges the United States Department of
6 Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service to continue the present cooperative
7 agreement process at a \$10,000 funding level; allow continuation of local decisionmaking by
8 resource conservation and development councils, including implementation of community
9 development projects, for as long as Congress funds the Resource Conservation and
10 Development program; and to allow a resource conservation and development coordinator
11 colocated with a North Dakota regional council to maintain that colocation; and

12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution
13 to the Governor, the North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner, Chief of Natural Resources
14 Conservation Service, and the United States Secretary of Agriculture.