

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-NINTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2004

606J0762

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

Introduced by: Senators Kloucek, Greenfield, Kooistra, Nachtigal, Olson (Ed), Reedy, Sutton (Dan), and Symens and Representatives Sigdestad, Begalka, Cutler, Gassman, Hundstad, Kroger, Lange, Miles, O'Brien, Olson (Mel), Peterson (Jim), Putnam, Schafer, and Sebert

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Supporting the development of wind energy in the upper
2 Midwest.

3 WHEREAS, wind power was the fastest growing source of worldwide electricity generation
4 over the last decade; and

5 WHEREAS, wind power can potentially supply up to ten percent of the world's energy by
6 2017; and

7 WHEREAS, in 2003, twenty-eight United States states supplied 4,685 megawatts of clean
8 wind power, enough energy to serve nearly three million homes; and

9 WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of Energy, all of our energy needs
10 in the United States could be met by harnessing the winds of Texas or the Dakotas alone; and

11 WHEREAS, much of the nation's untapped wind power is in the economically beset
12 heartland farm states; and

13 WHEREAS, according to the American Wind Energy Association, a 250-acre farm can
14 generate up to \$14,000 per year in extra income from wind power leases and royalties, while



1 idling fewer than three acres from crop production; and

2 WHEREAS, in addition to benefitting farmers and ranchers directly, wind power can create
3 construction and maintenance jobs, expand local tax bases, and save public and private dollars
4 that would otherwise be spent on fossil fuels; and

5 WHEREAS, as of 2003, seven wind energy facilities in South Dakota were capable of
6 generating a total of forty-four megawatts of power, far below South Dakota's potential for wind
7 energy production:

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Seventy-ninth Legislature
9 of the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the South
10 Dakota Legislature strongly supports accelerated efforts at the federal, state, and local levels and
11 in the private sector for the development of wind energy in the United States and particularly
12 in the states of the upper Midwest, including South Dakota.