

State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-SIXTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2011

471S0541

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

Introduced by: Senators Hansen (Tom), Brown, Frerichs, Fryslie, Krebs, and Tidemann and Representatives Hoffman, Cronin, Dennert, Feickert, Nelson (Stace), Rausch, Schaefer, Solum, and Street

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging the United States Department of Agriculture to use
2 sound science in making regulatory decisions.

3 WHEREAS, American agriculture has an impressive track record of successfully addressing
4 the food, clothing, and fiber needs of a growing world population; and

5 WHEREAS, this success has come through good management, new innovations, and
6 scientific advancements, including proper use of biotechnology; and

7 WHEREAS, the adoption of biotechnology by South Dakota farmers leads the nation.
8 According to the United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics
9 Service, ninety-five percent of all corn and ninety-eight percent of the soybean acres planted in
10 South Dakota in 2010 were a genetically engineered variety; and

11 WHEREAS, in the field of agricultural biotechnology, farmers have worked closely with
12 the seed industry to meet their stewardship obligations through contractual arrangements and
13 other mechanisms; and

14 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture has indicated that it may



1 deregulate biotech alfalfa with certain conditions in an effort to address organic growers' claims
2 of potential harm. Many South Dakota grower and agribusiness organizations strongly believe
3 that such a conditional deregulation is not science-based and would unduly restrict or even
4 eliminate the use of a valuable tool for growers in many parts of this country; and

5 WHEREAS, America's farmers and ranchers have demonstrated their ability to coexist with
6 neighboring growers, whether through neighbor-to-neighbor communications, through state seed
7 certifying agencies, or other local, state or regional initiatives; and

8 WHEREAS, the National Alfalfa and Forage Alliance (NAFA) developed its Best
9 Management Practices for Roundup Ready Alfalfa Seed Production in 2008 and has taken the
10 lead in providing coexistence documents for alfalfa hay export markets, alfalfa seed export
11 markets, and organic alfalfa seed and hay markets; and

12 WHEREAS, recommended best management practices were developed in South Dakota in
13 2007 stating that Roundup Ready Alfalfa must be harvested at or before ten percent bloom to
14 minimize potential pollen flow from hay to common alfalfa seed production; and

15 WHEREAS, any proposals to change United States government policy on agricultural
16 biotechnology regulation must be done through a thoughtful dialogue inclusive of all United
17 States government agencies:

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Eighty-
19 sixth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the United
20 States Secretary of Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture be urged to
21 make regulatory decisions based on sound science and to deregulate biotech alfalfa and other
22 future products as soon as possible, without unsupported conditions, to enable America's alfalfa
23 farmers to have access to biotech alfalfa seeds in time for the spring planting season.