

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, according to the American Wind Energy Association, a 250-acre farm can generate up to \$14,000 per year in extra income from wind power leases and royalties, while idling fewer than three acres from crop production; and

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

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

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

Adopted by the Senate,
Concurred in by the House of Representatives,

January 29, 2004
February 02, 2004

Dennis Daugaard
President of the Senate

Patricia Adam
Secretary of the Senate

Matthew Michels
Speaker of the House

Karen Gerdes
Chief Clerk of the House