

State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-THIRD SESSION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2008

381P0768

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13

Introduced by: Senators Lintz, Albers, Apa, Duenwald, Gant, Garnos, Greenfield, Hanson (Gary), Hauge, Kloucek, McCracken, McNenny, Napoli, Peterson (Jim), and Schmidt (Dennis) and Representatives Brunner, Elliott, Gilson, Jerke, Juhnke, Nelson, Noem, Olson (Betty), Rave, Rhoden, Sigdestad, Steele, Van Etten, Vanneman, and Willadsen

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Opposing the development of the NAFTA Superhighway.

2 WHEREAS, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between the United
3 States, Canada, and Mexico, was signed into law in 1993 by President Bill Clinton, who stated
4 that he hoped the agreement would encourage other nations to work toward a broader world
5 trade pact. NAFTA eliminated virtually all tariffs and trade restrictions between the three
6 nations and created the world's largest free-trade zone; and

7 WHEREAS, U.S. trade deficits with Mexico and Canada have significantly widened since
8 the implementation of NAFTA, and the economic and physical security of the United States is
9 threatened by the potential loss of control of its borders associated with the full operation of
10 NAFTA; and

11 WHEREAS, a NAFTA Superhighway System from the west coast of Mexico through the
12 United States and into Canada has been suggested as part of a North American Union; and

13 WHEREAS, a NAFTA Superhighway System would pose a wide range of potential risks



1 to the United States, including the entry into the United States of illegal drugs, illegal human
2 smuggling, and access deep into United States territory for terrorists, as well as more mundane
3 problems, such as difficulties related to vehicle accidents, insurance collections and rates, and
4 vehicle maintenance and safety hazards; and

5 WHEREAS, a NAFTA Superhighway System would be funded by foreign consortiums and
6 controlled by foreign management, which threatens the sovereignty of the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, development of the apparent initial stages of the NAFTA Superhighway
8 System has already begun in Texas with the Texas Department of Transportation's proposed
9 Texas Trade Corridor, known as TTC-35, a four-football-fields-wide NAFTA superhighway to
10 be financed and operated by Cintra Concesiones de Infraestructuras de Transporte, S.A., a
11 foreign investment consortium based in Spain. Cintra will own the leasing and operating rights
12 on TTC highways for fifty years after their completion; and

13 WHEREAS, another potential element in the NAFTA Superhighway System is the proposed
14 development of the "Kansas City Smart Port," an intermodal transportation facility and cargo
15 center located far inland that would handle imports and exports entering and leaving the United
16 States and could allow foreign customs officials jurisdiction over major portions of American
17 commerce; and

18 WHEREAS, a significant reason for the projects is to connect truck traffic from Mexican
19 ports on the Pacific, such as Lazaro Cardenas, to U.S. roads. Mexican ports are being
20 increasingly used as an alternative to West Coast ports such as Los Angeles and Long Beach as
21 a cheaper, nonunion alternative for the import of millions of containers from China; and

22 WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature in 2007 attempted to check the development of the Texas
23 Trade Corridor with legislation that would place a two-year moratorium on all public-private
24 partnerships involving the construction of new toll roads financed and operated by private

1 foreign investment groups and require a study of such long-term partnerships. Other legislation
2 would have added a number of requirements and restrictions to Texas' eminent-domain
3 procedures. These measures were approved overwhelmingly by the Texas Legislature but were
4 vetoed by the Governor; and

5 WHEREAS, the Texas legislation has important ramifications for the rest of the nation, as
6 the Texas Trade Corridor appears to be part of the physical infrastructure to be used to deepen
7 the integration of Mexico, the United States, and Canada in a North American economic
8 community that may be a precursor to further union:

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Eighty-Third Legislature
10 of the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the
11 Legislature supports the actions taken in 2007 by the Texas Legislature to investigate and
12 restrain the development of the Texas Trade Corridor, or TTC-35, an apparent precursor to the
13 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Superhighway; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature opposes the construction of a NAFTA
15 Superhighway System and opposes the entry of the United States into a North American Union
16 with Mexico and Canada; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature opposes any proposal that threatens the
18 sovereignty of the United States.