

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-SIXTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2001

248E0208

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1003

Introduced by: Representatives Jaspers, Duenwald, Flowers, Hanson (Gary), Hargens, Jensen, Juhnke, and Pederson (Gordon) and Senators Diedrich (Larry), Bogue, Dennert, Drake, Duxbury, Greenfield, Hainje, and Symens

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Expressing support for agricultural biotechnology.

2 WHEREAS, advances in molecular biology have resulted in what is known as recombinant
3 DNA technology or "genetic engineering" with the ability to more quickly move genetic material
4 between organisms than we could in the past; and

5 WHEREAS, biotechnology refers to this technique that uses living organisms or parts thereof
6 to make or modify a product or plants, animals, or microorganisms for specific uses; and

7 WHEREAS, traditional biotechnology, breeding and selection, has been used by humankind
8 for thousands of years for the improvement of plants, animals, and microorganisms; and

9 WHEREAS, biotechnology research is now being used to increase the productivity of crops
10 and livestock, to improve the quality of life by developing new high-yielding crops that require
11 fewer inputs and conserve natural resources in order to increase the food supply for the
12 increasing human population, to produce more nutritious foods with longer shelf lives, and to
13 continue to provide consumers with high-quality, low-cost food products; and

14 WHEREAS, federal law requires that all foods and food ingredients, including those

1 produced by biotechnology, be extensively reviewed for safety by the United States Food and
2 Drug Administration and meet the provision of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Act
3 before they can be sold to consumers and any changes to a food product that alters the chemical,
4 nutritional, or allergenicity of that product must be disclosed to the consumer of the product; and

5 WHEREAS, a September 1999 Gallup Poll found that Americans most familiar with modern
6 biotechnology are also the most supportive of its use to improve our food supply and that more
7 than three-fourths of Americans are confident in the federal government to ensure the safety of
8 the nation's food supply; and

9 WHEREAS, a multitude of eminent scientists and universities across the world have pledged
10 their support for current and future applications from biotechnology for the protection of and
11 improvements to human and environmental health:

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-
13 sixth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the South
14 Dakota Legislature:

- 15 (1) Believes that further advances in modern biotechnology may result in improved crops,
16 for example, that combat vitamin and mineral deficiencies that afflict hundreds of
17 millions of people worldwide or that can be used to produce life-saving vaccines and
18 biodegradable plastics;
- 19 (2) Supports the responsible use of biotechnology to benefit people in the state, the
20 nation, and the world, and the global environment through high-yield agricultural
21 production;
- 22 (3) Believes that discoveries made in biotechnology can significantly enhance our quality
23 of life, from the medicines we use, to the food we eat, to the environment in which
24 we live;

- 1 (4) Acknowledges and recognizes that federal oversight by the United States
2 Environmental Protection Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, and the
3 Food and Drug Administration over foods and food ingredients, whether produced
4 by biotechnology or conventional means is necessary and effective in ensuring and
5 maintaining a safe and stable food supply;
- 6 (5) Recognizes that biotechnology is a rapidly developing field and that it will be
7 appropriate to periodically review federal regulatory activities; and
- 8 (6) Supports public dialogue on the concerns surrounding biotechnology.