

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-SIXTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2001

861E0773

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1004

Introduced by: Representatives Flowers, Abdallah, Bartling, Bradford, Burg, Davis, Elliott, Gillespie, Glenski, Hanson (Gary), Hargens, Jaspers, Kloucek, Lange, Monroe, Murschel, Nachtigal, Napoli, Nesselhuf, Olson (Mel), Peterson (Jim), Rhoden, Richter, Sigdestad, Valandra, and Van Norman and Senators Volesky, de Hueck, Dennert, Duxbury, Greenfield, Hutmacher, Kleven, Koetzle, McIntyre, Moore, Munson, Olson (Ed), Reedy, Sutton (Dan), and Symens

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging Congress to conduct an investigation of the natural
2 gas commodity market and to establish a national energy policy.

3 WHEREAS, unparalleled natural gas commodity price increases have occurred in the past
4 year even though no natural gas shortage is said to exist; and

5 WHEREAS, local distribution costs and interstate transmission costs are regulated, but
6 prices paid to producers and natural gas commodity brokers have been deregulated by Congress;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, the current commodity price of natural gas paid by utilities and passed on to
9 consumers has created economic hardship both in South Dakota and throughout the nation; and

10 WHEREAS, there is no national energy policy regarding natural gas use and supply
11 standards; and

12 WHEREAS, virtually all new or planned electric generation facilities use or will use natural

1 gas, thereby diminishing supply and further increasing upward pressure on prices; and

2 WHEREAS, the lack of minimum energy efficiency standards for new or existing homes
3 magnifies the effect energy prices have on consumers' economic well being; and

4 WHEREAS, no state or federal agency regulates natural gas commodity prices or can
5 establish national energy policy; and

6 WHEREAS, Congress is the only entity able to effect national energy policy and establish
7 natural gas commodity pricing standards; and

8 WHEREAS, possible irregularities in natural gas commodity market pricing should be
9 investigated, and Congress is the appropriate entity to conduct an investigation:

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-
11 sixth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the United
12 States Congress is urged to consider the negative economic effects upon homeowners of burning
13 natural gas to generate electricity and to immediately commence an investigation into the
14 deregulated natural gas commodity market to determine if abuse or irregularities exist with
15 market-based pricing and market practices and, if necessary, institute corrective measures and
16 controls; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Congress is urged to address the lack
18 of minimum standards for natural gas production and supply and to establish long-term national
19 energy policy designed to improve energy efficiency and provide stable energy pricing and
20 adequate energy supplies.