

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1003

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Expressing support for agricultural biotechnology.

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, federal law requires that all foods and food ingredients, including those produced by biotechnology, be extensively reviewed for safety by the United States Food and Drug Administration and meet the provision of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Act before they can be sold to consumers and any changes to a food product that alters the chemical, nutritional, or allergenicity of that product should be disclosed to the consumer of the product; and

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

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

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

Legislature:

- (1) Believes that further advances in modern biotechnology may result in improved crops, for example, that combat vitamin and mineral deficiencies that afflict hundreds of millions of people worldwide or that can be used to produce life-saving vaccines and biodegradable plastics;
- (2) Supports the responsible use of biotechnology to benefit people in the state, the nation, and the world, and the global environment through high-yield agricultural production;
- (3) Believes that discoveries made in biotechnology can significantly enhance our quality of life, from the medicines we use, to the food we eat, to the environment in which we live;
- (4) Acknowledges and recognizes that federal oversight by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, and the Food and Drug Administration over foods and food ingredients, whether produced by biotechnology or conventional means is necessary to ensure and maintain a safe and stable food supply;
- (5) Recognizes that biotechnology is a rapidly developing field and that it will be appropriate to continually review federal regulatory activities; and
- (6) Supports public dialogue on the concerns surrounding biotechnology.

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

January 26, 2001
February 06, 2001

Scott Eccarius
Speaker of the House

Karen Gerdes
Chief Clerk of the House

Carole Hillard
President of the Senate

Patricia Adam
Secretary of the Senate