

# State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2000

732D0781

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5

Introduced by: Senators Dunn (Jim), Brown (Arnold), Halverson, Madden, Rounds, Shoener, and Symens and Representatives Apa, Broderick, Crisp, Duenwald, Duniphan, Engbrecht, Fryslie, Garnos, Hagen, Hanson, Heineman, Hennies, Jaspers, Juhnke, Kazmerzak, Koskan, Lintz, McCoy, Napoli, Pummel, Sutton (Duane), Wilson, and Young

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Expressing opposition to certain federal forestry policies  
2 and urging support of the Black Hills timber industry.

3 WHEREAS, the State of South Dakota has 1,145,000 acres of national forests and 867,000  
4 acres of national grasslands; and

5 WHEREAS, the national forests and national grasslands are vitally important to the culture,  
6 economy, and enjoyment of the people of South Dakota; and

7 WHEREAS, the United States Forest Service is currently developing a revision of the Land  
8 and Resource Management Plans for the national grasslands, a plan to "protect" all roadless and  
9 unroaded areas in the National Forest System, a plan to prohibit off-highway vehicle travel in the  
10 Custer National Forest, a new Strategic Plan for the National Forest System, and a revision of  
11 the forest planning regulations; and

12 WHEREAS, all of these plans are designed to reduce commodity outputs and motorized  
13 recreation in the national forests and grasslands and to promote management for "pre-European"  
14 conditions; and

15 WHEREAS, the supervisor of the Black Hills National Forest has requested assistance from

1 the chief of the Forest Service in streamlining the analysis and implementation of a project to  
2 control the mountain pine beetle epidemic west of Sturgis, and the chief has denied that request;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, a federal district court in Illinois, ruling on a case brought by an environmental  
5 special interest group in Indiana, issued an injunction in September of 1999 halting small timber  
6 sales offered nationwide since September 16, 1998, that used categorical exclusions, and halting  
7 the further use of categorical exclusions for small timber sales designed to salvage small areas  
8 of dead and dying trees; and

9 WHEREAS, the chief of the Forest Service's decision on an appeal of the revised forest plan  
10 for the Black Hills National Forest will severely curtail the forest management and grazing  
11 programs and will delay a decision on the mountain pine beetle Environmental Impact Statement;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, adequate funding is critical to ensure the implementation of forest plans for  
14 national forests and national grasslands in South Dakota:

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Seventy-fifth Legislature  
16 of the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the  
17 Legislature of the State of South Dakota strongly supports the concept of multiple use and  
18 strongly opposes a policy of managing the national forests and grasslands for "pre-European"  
19 conditions; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature of the State of South Dakota strongly  
21 opposes national initiatives that undermine the role of the people who are directly affected by  
22 decisions about the management of the national forests and grasslands; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature of the State of South Dakota opposes  
24 further analysis of roadless or unroaded areas in the national forests and grasslands of South  
25 Dakota; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature of the State of South Dakota supports  
2 all possible and necessary steps to allow the projects to control the mountain pine beetle  
3 epidemic in the Black Hills National Forest to proceed immediately; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature of the State of South Dakota opposes  
5 the proposed change in travel management from "open unless closed" to "closed unless open";  
6 and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature of the State of South Dakota supports  
8 whatever actions are necessary to eliminate the adverse effects of the chief of the Forest Service's  
9 October 29, 1999, decision on the appeal of the forest plan revision; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature of the State of South Dakota strongly  
11 encourages the Congress of the United States to expeditiously pass legislation amending the  
12 "National Environmental Protection Act" to allow small timber sales of the scale previously  
13 allowed by the Forest Service under categorical exclusion to be exempted from environmental  
14 assessment and impact statements to which larger timber sales are subjected; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature of the State of South Dakota supports  
16 full funding for the forest plans for the national forests and national grasslands within the State  
17 of South Dakota.