

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1010

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Requesting the National Farm Service Agency to reconsider the closure of certain county Farm Service Agency offices.

WHEREAS, the National Farm Service Agency Administrator asked all state executive directors to conduct a review of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Farm Service Agency offices in their states; and

WHEREAS, the state executive director of the Farm Service Agency in South Dakota is recommending the closure and realignment of seven county Farm Service Agency offices in the state; and

WHEREAS, farmers and ranchers rely on the county Farm Service Agency office for information on the United States Department of Agriculture programs, program sign-up, and distribution of program payments; and

WHEREAS, farm and ranch related cooperatives and businesses have developed working relationships with the county Farm Service Agency offices; and

WHEREAS, the county Farm Service Agency offices proposed for closure are located in counties that are primarily dependent on agricultural for their economic base; and

WHEREAS, farmers and ranchers will have less access to their local Farm Service Agency office and many of these farmers and ranchers have restricted internet access, limiting their ability to use the Farm Service Agency Tomorrow Program; and

WHEREAS, the current United States Department of Agriculture farm programs are more complicated than the previous programs making personal contact with the Farm Service Agency employees more essential:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Eighty-second Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the National Farm Service Agency be requested to reconsider the benefits and services provided to farmers and ranchers by maintaining the local county Farm Service Agency offices in their current locations against the small savings provided in their closure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Farm Service Agency be requested not to

concur with the proposed county Farm Service Agency office closures and seek cost savings and improved efficiencies through other approaches; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Farm Service Agency be requested to review its budget and management practices to seek efficiencies and cost savings at the federal level before closing local county Farm Service Agency offices that deliver critical services to our constituent producers.

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

March 26, 2007
March 26, 2007

Thomas J. Deadrick
Speaker of the House

Karen Gerdes
Chief Clerk of the House

Dennis Daugaard
President of the Senate

Trudy Evenstad
Secretary of the Senate