

State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-SECOND SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2007

456N0850

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1010

Introduced by: Representatives Rhoden, Boomgarden, Bradford, Brunner, Buckingham, Burg, Davis, Deadrick, Dennert, DeVries, Dykstra, Elliott, Faehn, Gassman, Gillespie, Gilson, Glenski, Halverson, Hargens, Haverly, Hills, Howie, Hunt, Jerke, Juhnke, Koistinen, Krebs, Miles, Moore, Nelson, Noem, Novstrup (David), Nygaard, Olson (Betty), Olson (Russell), Pederson (Gordon), Pitts, Rausch, Rave, Sigdestad, Steele, Street, Thompson, Tidemann, Turbiville, Van Norman, Vanneman, Vehle, Weems, Wick, and Willadsen and Senators Knudson, Albers, Bartling, Dempster, Duenwald, Garnos, Gray, Hansen (Tom), Hanson (Gary), Hauge, Heidepriem, Hoerth, Hundstad, Jerstad, Katus, Kloucek, Koetzle, Lintz, Maher, McNenny, Nesselhuf, Peterson (Jim), Smidt (Orville), Sutton, and Turbak

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Farm Service Agency be requested not
17 to concur with the proposed county Farm Service Agency office closures and seek cost savings
18 and improved efficiencies through other approaches; and

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