

State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-FIFTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2010

822R0112

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1002

Introduced by: Representatives Verchio, Brunner, Jensen, Kirkeby, Kopp, Olson (Betty), and Sly and Senators Schmidt, Maher, and Rhoden

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Requesting federal natural resource agencies to refrain
2 from designating wilderness or roadless areas in South Dakota without Legislative approval.

3 WHEREAS, Congress passed the Wilderness Act of 1964 "to establish a National
4 Wilderness Preservation System for the permanent good of the whole people, and for other
5 purposes"; and

6 WHEREAS, under the Wilderness Act of 1964 and subsequent federal legislation, many
7 areas across the nation have been designated as "wilderness areas" or "roadless areas"; and

8 WHEREAS, the effect of the designation of wilderness or roadless areas in many cases is
9 to hinder or preclude the ability of South Dakota citizens to develop and use the natural
10 resources of this state in a fair and equitable manner; and

11 WHEREAS, many of our rural economies depend on a combination of multiple uses of our
12 public lands, such as agriculture, grazing, timber production, and mineral development, as well
13 as motorized and mechanized recreation, all of which may be prohibited or seriously inhibited
14 by a wilderness or roadless designation; and

15 WHEREAS, wilderness and roadless designations may limit the land management options



1 available to public land managers to protect forest health and dependent watersheds and other
2 public lands; and

3 WHEREAS, land and resource conservation decisions must consider the relationship
4 between the land and the local economy, because many jobs are tied to activities on public lands
5 such as mining, agriculture, and tourism; and

6 WHEREAS, programs for the designation of wilderness or roadless areas in South Dakota
7 must be based upon the principles of balance, stewardship, and collaboration of all affected
8 parties; and

9 WHEREAS, the South Dakota Legislature finds that a regional strategy involving all
10 affected parties is the preferred approach to the designation of wilderness and roadless areas:

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Eighty-
12 fifth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the South
13 Dakota Legislature requests the United States Department of the Interior, the United States
14 Department of Agriculture, the Bureau of Land Management, the United States Forest Service,
15 and other federal natural resource and land management agencies to structure their policies so
16 that no area in South Dakota may be designated as a wilderness or roadless area unless the
17 designation has been approved by a two-thirds majority in each house of the South Dakota
18 Legislature.