

# State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2013

291U0182

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1

Introduced by: Senators Lucas, Ewing, Frerichs, Krebs, Otten (Ernie), Rampelberg, Rhoden, Vehle, and Welke and Representatives Hoffman, Bartling, Cammack, Craig, Duvall, Feickert, Gibson, Hawks, Kopp, May, Olson (Betty), Otten (Herman), Qualm, Schaefer, Schoenfish, Schrempp, and Verchio

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging action by Congress on agricultural issues and the  
2 federal farm bill.

3 WHEREAS, current federal authorities for nutrition, farm risk management, conservation,  
4 energy, and other programs are set to expire on September 30, 2013, after Congress enacted a  
5 one-year extension of the 2008 farm bill, leaving the future of a multiyear bill uncertain; and

6 WHEREAS, the farm bill is important for every American because it provides critical  
7 investment in rural communities, conserves precious natural resources such as soil and water,  
8 provides food for schools and those less fortunate, and creates new sources of energy made here  
9 at home; and

10 WHEREAS, the farm bill provides farmers with risk management tools necessary for  
11 efficient, uninterrupted operations and gives farmers critical certainty about farm policy as they  
12 make operating decisions and deal with volatile weather conditions; and

13 WHEREAS, the expiration of the current farm bill will leave producers and lenders with  
14 uncertainty as to the level at which federal protections will be in place, which could result in the



1 inability to secure funding for the upcoming planting season; and

2 WHEREAS, federal support for crop insurance remains an important need for agricultural  
3 producers, particularly as large parts of the nation are under severe drought conditions, making  
4 passage of the farm bill essential to providing meaningful and responsible aid to farmers in  
5 difficult times, resulting from poor or low yields, low prices, or high input costs; and

6 WHEREAS, agricultural producers rely on livestock disaster assistance programs that are  
7 contingent on approval of the farm bill, including the Livestock Indemnity Program, which  
8 partially compensates ranchers for livestock mortality caused by disasters, the Livestock Forage  
9 Program to assist ranchers who graze livestock on qualifying drought- or fire-affected  
10 pastureland, and the Emergency Livestock Assistance Program, which compensates producers  
11 for disaster losses not covered under other disaster programs; and

12 WHEREAS, the farm bill includes the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP),  
13 The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), and other nutrition assistance programs for  
14 which bipartisan solutions are needed; and

15 WHEREAS, the farm bill supports conservation programing at lower spending levels  
16 through consolidation and improved efficiency while strengthening and expanding agricultural  
17 conservation programs, which are a strategic investment in our country's agricultural  
18 infrastructure, including improving air and water quality and the protection of rural and urban  
19 watersheds; and

20 WHEREAS, United States agricultural production is a unique and diversified industry  
21 providing a wide variety of food and fiber products to local and national consumers and export  
22 markets and continues to be the driving force of commerce, employment, and income in rural  
23 America, accounting for sales in excess of \$3.5 trillion dollars in 2011 and more than twenty  
24 percent of all United States jobs; and

1       WHEREAS, approximately ninety-one percent of our nation's farms are classified as small,  
2 and support of smaller-scale farmers in a local food system provides economic benefits to each  
3 region; and

4       WHEREAS, Agriculture is the keystone of rural America, supporting a critical combination  
5 of infrastructure and economic activity upon which nearly all other enterprises depend:

6       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Eighty-Eighth Legislature  
7 of the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the South  
8 Dakota Legislature urges the United States Congress to work in a cooperative, bipartisan fashion  
9 to pass a new, multiyear farm bill that is beneficial to agricultural producers from all regions of  
10 the country and includes comprehensive programs for dairy, livestock, insurance, nutrition,  
11 energy, research and development, market development, and specialty crops; and

12       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Legislature urges the United States  
13 Congress to address the farm bill in a timely manner to ensure continuation of the vital aspects  
14 of federal farm policy that will enable the nation's agricultural producers to continue their  
15 operations and provide food security for this nation.