

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1998

642B0658

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1009

Introduced by: Representatives Schrempp, Crisp, Duenwald, Koskan, Lee, Lockner, Sperry,
Van Gerpen, Waltman, and Weber and Senators Lange, Benson, Hutmacher,
Kloucek, Morford, and Symens

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging Congress and the President to revise the current
2 farm bill to restore a safety net for farmers and ranchers.

3 WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States passed new farm legislation through the
4 Agricultural Marketing Transition Act (AMTA) of 1996, otherwise known as the Freedom to
5 Farm Bill, which completely decoupled farm commodity payments from farm production by
6 implementing fixed payments over a seven year period; and

7 WHEREAS, the fixed payments are fiscally irresponsible because they provide payments to
8 producers at a time when much improved commodity prices would not otherwise merit such
9 payment; and

10 WHEREAS, the new farm policy nearly eliminates risk management and protection
11 opportunities for farmers by stripping out any safety net designed to protect farmers during times
12 of adverse conditions; and

13 WHEREAS, certain elements of the Freedom to Farm Bill, including greater planting
14 flexibility and less burdensome paperwork, having significantly contributed to a more successful

1 farm policy, and therefore should remain a part of the overall farm program; and

2 WHEREAS, states like South Dakota depend on the economic vitality of agriculture as our
3 number one industry, an industry that contributes fifteen billion dollars in economic activity, an
4 industry that thrives because of the many farm and ranch families. However, the livelihood of
5 these farmers and ranchers are threatened by several factors they have no control over; and

6 WHEREAS, the disastrous weather conditions of 1997 reminded farmers, ranchers, and
7 South Dakotans that a safety net is necessary to aid farmers and ranchers that sustain rural
8 communities, complicated by the fact that South Dakota has not yet felt the full impact or
9 economic loss of the 1997 blizzards to farmers, ranchers, and rural communities:

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-
11 third Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the South
12 Dakota Legislature encourages the United States Congress and the Clinton administration to
13 make improvements to the current farm bill in such a way that replaces fixed, phased-out
14 payments with a marketing-loan approach that provides risk management tools to farmers while
15 at the same time establishes a safety-net within the farm program.