

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2000

471D0580

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1010

Introduced by: Representatives Wetz, Duenwald, Fryslie, Klaudt, McCoy, McNenny, and Napoli and Senators Bogue, Drake, Flowers, Frederick, and Kleven

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, In opposition to the listing of the black-tailed prairie dog
2 as a threatened or endangered species.

3 WHEREAS, the black-tailed prairie dog is native to South Dakota and exists in large
4 numbers in the southern and western parts of the state; and

5 WHEREAS, federal, state, and local government agencies and private landowners have
6 struggled for many years to control the prairie dog population using a variety of programs and
7 methods and expending significant amounts of time, effort, and both public and private funds in
8 these endeavors; and

9 WHEREAS, in the view of large numbers of farmers, ranchers, property owners,
10 homeowners, and other local people and entities whose livelihoods and living conditions are
11 affected, the black-tailed prairie dog is a nuisance animal that is a danger to livestock and has a
12 detrimental effect on property; and

13 WHEREAS, in March of 1999, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, based on a petition from
14 the National Wildlife Federation, placed the black-tailed prairie dog under status review to
15 determine whether the species will be proposed for listing as a threatened or endangered species;
16 and

1 WHEREAS, the listing of the black-tailed prairie dog would obviously run counter to the
2 efforts to control the black-tailed prairie dog by private and public persons and entities, including
3 numerous federal agencies; and

4 WHEREAS, although black-tailed prairie dogs are declining in some areas due to habitat
5 loss, eradication efforts, and sylvatic plague, they are plentiful in other areas, and pose difficulties
6 for landowners and residents in these areas; and

7 WHEREAS, listing of the black-tailed prairie dog as a threatened or endangered species will
8 curtail control efforts in all areas, regardless of whether or not the species is threatened or
9 plentiful in a given area; and

10 WHEREAS, the changing federal policy with respect to animals that were until recently
11 handled as nuisance animals leaves landowners and residents exasperated and frustrated and
12 unsure of the policy alternatives available to them:

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-
14 fifth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the South
15 Dakota Legislature opposes the listing of the black-tailed prairie dog as a threatened or
16 endangered species in South Dakota and urges the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to consider
17 whether the petition to list the black-tailed prairie dog presents substantial scientific and
18 commercial information to demonstrate that the proposed action is warranted; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature encourages the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
20 Service to coordinate with private landowners and business representatives to identify reasonable
21 conservation measures for the black-tailed prairie dog and to include private landowners and
22 business representatives in the agency's decision-making processes.