

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-EIGHTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2003

813I0458

SENATE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ENGROSSED NO. **HCR 1008** -
02/20/2003

Introduced by: Representatives Garnos, Burg, Christensen, Craddock, Cutler, Davis, Dadrick (Thomas), Dykstra, Frost, Fryslie, Hackl, Hargens, Heineman, Hundstad, Juhnke, Klaudt, Kraus, Lintz, McCaulley, McCoy, McLaughlin, Nesselhuf, Olson (Mel), Rave, Rhoden, Schafer, Van Etten, Weems, Wick, and Williamson and Senators Koskan, Bogue, Dennert, Duxbury, Greenfield, Jaspers, and McCracken

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging the adoption of a scientific drought relief program.

2 WHEREAS, many areas in South Dakota have been devastated by drought in recent years,
3 particularly during 2002; and

4 WHEREAS, preliminary estimates for drought damage to crops in South Dakota for 2002
5 is \$240.2 million and damage to forage is \$241.8 million; and

6 WHEREAS, the current and proposed systems of federal drought relief are not equitable in
7 several respects. The current and proposed systems do not provide livestock producers with the
8 same level of benefits provided for crop producers, do not help producers who were forced by
9 drought to sell off livestock, and do not help the producers of some species of livestock; and

10 WHEREAS, many of these problems could be corrected through the use of a scientific
11 approach that provides accurate estimates of drought damage to crops and forage so that
12 producers are treated more fairly and those with the greatest need would receive the greatest



1 assistance; and

2 WHEREAS, a scientific drought relief program would provide assistance to livestock and
3 crop producers in proportion to reduced production caused by the absence of moisture, with
4 payment based on deviation from normal moisture applied to the productivity of the land.
5 Compensation would be tied directly to the crops or livestock forage that did not grow because
6 of inadequate moisture:

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-
8 eighth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the South
9 Dakota Legislature urges the United States Congress and the United States Department of
10 Agriculture to redesign the federal approach to drought relief and to base drought relief on
11 scientific criteria that address actual impacts of drought on crops and livestock forage; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the federal government does not adopt a system of
13 scientific drought relief, the Congress and the United States Department of Agriculture are urged
14 to allow the states flexibility to design their own drought relief systems in partnership with
15 federal officials and agencies to better address local and regional drought relief needs.