

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1008

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Adopted by the House of Representatives,  
Concurred in by the Senate,

February 13, 2003  
February 20, 2003

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Matthew Michels  
Speaker of the House

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Karen Gerdes  
Chief Clerk of the House

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Dennis Daugaard  
President of the Senate

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Patricia Adam  
Secretary of the Senate