

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1009

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Requesting that a bipartisan delegation of South Dakota state legislators travel to Washington, D.C., to meet with congressional leaders, administration, and Department of Agriculture officials to express the need for disaster assistance targeted to those in most serious need.

WHEREAS, significant portions of South Dakota are entering into a third consecutive year of severe drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, some areas of western South Dakota have not experienced appreciable precipitation for more than eighteen months; and

WHEREAS, a citizen's task force in seven northwestern South Dakota counties has compiled information on absolute minimum needs that would be required for ranchers to hold on until Spring; and

WHEREAS, those absolute minimum needs include more than forty-five million pounds of hay (forty-five thousand one thousand pound bales), eighty-six thousand bushels of corn, four thousand one-hundred sixty barrels of protein supplement, six hundred forty-two tons of range cake, six thousand three hundred seventy-five bushels of oats, eight hundred bags of soybean meal, and fifteen tons of straw; and

WHEREAS, transporting this amount of feed would require an estimated one thousand three hundred seventy tractor-trailer units which, parked end-to-end, would stretch for twenty-six miles; and

WHEREAS, these statistics represent only feed assistance needs reported to county extension offices in Perkins, Harding, Corson, Butte, Meade, Lawrence, Dewey, and Ziebach counties; and

WHEREAS, drought conditions in varying degrees of severity extend over most of the State of South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, additional needs including water, food, fuel, and health have been reported; and

WHEREAS, the economic repercussions from drought also imperil non farm and ranch rural residents, main street businesses, churches, schools, and other institutions; and

WHEREAS, disaster assistance provided by the United States Department of Agriculture during

2002 was greatly appreciated, but inadequate to deal with the scope of this environmental and economic disaster; and

WHEREAS, it is important that disaster assistance approved by Congress accurately target those most in need of help:

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 Congress should work to provide adequate targeted disaster assistance sufficient to allow ranchers, farmers, and their rural communities to survive; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a delegation of legislators travel to Washington, D.C. to meet with congressional, administration, and Department of Agriculture officials regarding drought-related issues.

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

February 18, 2003
February 20, 2003

Matthew Michels
Speaker of the House

Karen Gerdes
Chief Clerk of the House

Dennis Daugaard
President of the Senate

Patricia Adam
Secretary of the Senate