

# State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-EIGHTH SESSION  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2003

717I0797

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1017

Introduced by: Representatives Teupel, Adelstein, Bartling, Begalka, Bradford, Buckingham, Garnos, Haverly, Hennies, Juhnke, Klaudt, Konold, Kraus, LaRue, Lintz, Madsen, McCoy, McLaughlin, Olson (Ryan), Pederson (Gordon), Rhoden, and Van Etten and Senators Apa, Bogue, Duniphan, Ham, Kleven, Koskan, LaPointe, McCracken, Napoli, and Vitter

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Requesting the Governor, Legislature, and South Dakota  
2 Congressional Delegation to support the Healthy Forests Initiative and its individual  
3 programs.

4 WHEREAS, the United States Departments of Agriculture and Interior estimates that,  
5 nationwide, 190 million acres of federally owned forest land face a forest health and wildfire risk  
6 crisis situation; and

7 WHEREAS, since the summer of 2000 over 280,000 acres of the Black Hills National Forest  
8 were either scorched by wildfire or seriously infested by forest insects; and

9 WHEREAS, two major wildfires in 2002 resulted in the loss of twenty-five structures in the  
10 Black Hills National Forest and threatened to consume the towns of Deadwood, Lead, Harney,  
11 Keystone, and Rockerville; and

12 WHEREAS, in a June 2002 report entitled "The Process Predicament" the United States  
13 Forest Service cited itself as being so busy meeting procedural requirements that the Forest  
14 Service has trouble fulfilling its historic mission to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity



1 of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations; and

2 WHEREAS, the Forest Service's inability to promptly and efficiently implement forest  
3 management projects has contributed to wildfire risks and the spread of insect and disease  
4 epidemics on the Black Hills National Forest; and

5 WHEREAS, the United States Departments of Agriculture and Interior have proposed the  
6 Healthy Forests Initiative, which includes several proposals to streamline and improve analyses,  
7 decision making, and implementation of federal land management projects and programs; and

8 WHEREAS, these initiatives include: categorical exclusions to accelerate unexpected and  
9 imperative fuels, fire rehabilitation, and small timber sale projects; reforming the administrative  
10 appeals process; and revising the regulations for forest planning; and

11 WHEREAS, the citizens of South Dakota would benefit from increased levels of forest  
12 management that would help reduce the risks of wildfires and insect epidemics on the Black Hills  
13 National Forest:

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-  
15 eighth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the South  
16 Dakota Legislature supports the Healthy Forests Initiative and its individual proposals; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Legislature urges the Governor and  
18 South Dakota Congressional Delegation to fully support the Healthy Forests Initiative and its  
19 individual proposals.