

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1019

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging Congress to refrain from acquiring certain additional land for Wind Cave National Park.

WHEREAS, the United States Congress is considering legislation to add more than 5,500 acres to Wind Cave National Park; and

WHEREAS, Wind Cave National Park, located in the southern Black Hills, is the location of one of the longest and most complex cave systems in the United States and includes 28,000 acres of mixed-grass prairies and pine forests that provide habitat for bison, deer, elk, and many other species; and

WHEREAS, the proposed addition would involve the purchase of similar adjacent, private land; and

WHEREAS, residents of Custer and Fall River counties by a large margin do not support the proposed purchase of additional property for Wind Cave National Park; and

WHEREAS, the proposed purchase would reduce property tax revenues to Custer County and the Hot Springs School District, and federal payments in lieu of taxes would not be sufficient to make up for the loss; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service prohibits hunting in Wind Cave National Park and would prohibit hunting in the additional area to be purchased, and the National Park Service does not have a strong record in the area of wildlife management; and

WHEREAS, the purchase price for the proposed additional acres is higher than warranted and would drive the price of land in the area beyond the reach of agricultural producers:

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 does not support the proposed purchase of additional land for an expansion of Wind Cave National Park currently under consideration by the United States Congress. The Legislature urges Congress to refrain from making the purchase and to allocate the resources intended for the purchase to more appropriate purposes.

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

March 05, 2003
March 07, 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