

# State of South Dakota

EIGHTIETH SESSION  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2005

444L0791

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

Introduced by: Senators McNenny, Apa, Bogue, Duenwald, Gant, Gray, Koskan, Lintz, McCracken, Napoli, Olson (Ed), Peterson (Jim), and Schoenbeck and Representatives Brunner, Boomgarden, Halverson, Hanks, Haverly, Hills, Howie, Jensen, Klaudt, Krebs, McCoy, Murschel, Nelson, Olson (Ryan), Peters, Rhoden, and Turbiville

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Requesting the USDA Forest Service to adopt the Healthy  
2 Forest Alternative to the Phase II Forest Plan Amendment for the Black Hills National  
3 Forest.

4 WHEREAS, catastrophic wildfires have burned more than 180,000 acres of the Black Hills  
5 since 1999, destroying homes, property, and forest resources and threatening communities and  
6 livelihoods; and

7 WHEREAS, mountain pine beetles have killed more than one million trees in the Black  
8 Hills since 1999, and further exacerbate the risk of wildfires; and

9 WHEREAS, the South Dakota Legislature has for the last three consecutive Legislative  
10 Sessions requested the USDA Forest Service to take more aggressive action to prevent such  
11 damage to the Black Hills National Forest; and

12 WHEREAS, the USDA Forest Service is developing the Phase II Amendment to the Land  
13 and Resource Management Plan, which will govern the long-term management of the Black  
14 Hills National Forest and is to address the risks of wildfires and pine beetles; and



1       WHEREAS, agencies of the State of South Dakota, the Governor, and many other interested  
2 parties have publicly concluded that the preferred alternative for the Phase II Amendment  
3 proposed by the USDA Forest Service is not an acceptable strategy for allaying these risks; and

4       WHEREAS, a coalition of citizens and multiple-use organizations has developed a new  
5 alternative to the Phase II Amendment, known as the Healthy Forest Alternative; and

6       WHEREAS, the Healthy Forest Alternative is consistent with the concerns addressed by the  
7 State of South Dakota, in its official comments to the Forest Service on the Phase II  
8 Amendment:

9       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Eightieth Legislature of the  
10 State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the South Dakota  
11 Legislature supports the Healthy Forest Alternative as complementary to the interests of the  
12 state; and

13       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Legislature urges the USDA Forest  
14 Service to adopt the Healthy Forest Alternative as its selected alternative in the final version of  
15 the Phase II Amendment; and

16       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Legislature urges the South Dakota  
17 Congressional delegation to fully support the Healthy Forest Alternative.