



2023 South Dakota Legislature

House Commemoration 8007

Introduced by: **Representative** St. John

1 **A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Honoring the Bien Ranch as the 2022 Leopold**
 2 **Conservation Award recipient.**

3 WHEREAS, the Leopold Conservation Award, named for renowned conservationist Aldo
 4 Leopold, recognizes farm and ranch families who demonstrate outstanding conservation
 5 leadership on their land and in their communities; and

6 WHEREAS, a commitment to the health of South Dakota's natural resources is exemplified
 7 by the Bien Ranch as the recipient of the 2022 Leopold Conservation Award; and

8 WHEREAS, the Bien family's dedication to conservation has allowed them to sustain the
 9 landscape of the ranch while earning their livelihood from it since it was homesteaded by Ole
 10 Bien in 1888; and

11 WHEREAS, Neil and Muriel Bien, Boyd and Lyle Bien and their families, and Neil's
 12 grandson, Nate, focus on being environmentally sound and economically viable, recognizing
 13 that "if you don't do things that are profitable, you won't have anyone here, and if you don't
 14 have anyone here, you can't take care of the environment"; and

15 WHEREAS, the Bien Ranch is an intact representation of the prairies, wetlands, and
 16 woodlands that South Dakota's Prairie Coteau glacial landscape is known for; and

17 WHEREAS, wildlife food plots, tree planting, and other wooded areas offering protection
 18 to wildlife and livestock are carefully placed to not impact species that rely on open native
 19 prairies; and

20 WHEREAS, Neil Bien's philosophy that "sustainability is not possible if you exploit, exhaust,
 21 or use it up" led him to preserve one hundred natural wetlands and restore fifteen wetland
 22 basins across the Bien Ranch:

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Ninety-Eighth Legislature of the State
2 of South Dakota, that the Bien Ranch is the recipient of the 2022 Leopold Conservation Award
3 in South Dakota.