



2023 South Dakota Legislature

House Commemoration 8013

Introduced by: **Representative Bahmuller**

1 **A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, To celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the**
2 **establishment of the National Wild Turkey Federation and recognize the**
3 **organization's significant contributions to scientific wildlife management,**
4 **research, and habitat conservation, as well as promoting and protecting the**
5 **long-honored outdoor traditions of the United States of America.**

6 WHEREAS, the National Wild Turkey Federation, Inc. was incorporated on March 28, 1973,
7 in Fredericksburg, Virginia; and

8 WHEREAS, for over fifty years, the National Wild Turkey Federation and millions of
9 members and chapters across the nation have worked with state, federal, and
10 nongovernmental partners to promote the conservation of the wild turkey and the
11 preservation of our hunting heritage, participating in one of the greatest conservation success
12 stories in American history, the return of the wild turkey from the brink of extinction; and

13 WHEREAS, the National Wild Turkey Federation, its members, and chapters have been the
14 vanguard of reversing declining hunting participation through nationwide investment in hunter
15 recruitment, retention, and reactivation efforts, and partnering with states to develop
16 opportunities to engage people from all walks of life in the outdoors tradition. Since 2012, the
17 National Wild Turkey Federation has recruited and reactivated more than one-and-a-half
18 million hunters; and

19 WHEREAS, the National Wild Turkey Federation has invested more than half a billion
20 dollars to conserve or enhance more than twenty-two million acres of critical wildlife habitat,
21 forests, and grasslands across public and private lands since 1985; and

22 WHEREAS, the National Wild Turkey Federation has invested more than eight-and-a-half
23 million dollars in research throughout North America to ensure healthy wild turkey populations
24 into the future; and

1 WHEREAS, the National Wild Turkey Federation is the largest and longest-serving
2 nongovernmental stewardship partner of the United States Department of Agriculture Forest
3 Service, conserving habitat on National Forest System lands for more than forty years, and
4 heavily engaged in the development and implementation of the Department’s wildfire crisis
5 strategy:

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Ninety-Eighth Legislature of the State
7 of South Dakota, that the Legislature recognizes and celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of the
8 National Wild Turkey Federation and salutes the organization, its chapters, and members from
9 across the United States for its tremendous efforts to further scientific, state-led wildlife
10 management, and the conservation of the wild turkey and its habitat. The Legislature wishes
11 the National Wild Turkey Federation, its members, and chapters the best for the future as
12 they continue to deliver their mission by working across land-ownership boundaries on a
13 landscape scale to increase clean and abundant water, healthy forests and wildlife habitat,
14 resilient communities, and robust recreational opportunities across the country.