



# 2024 South Dakota Legislature

## House Concurrent Resolution 6006

Introduced by: **Representative Mills**

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging the members of South Dakota's congressional**  
2 **delegation to sponsor and support an amendment to the Payment in Lieu of**  
3 **Taxes (PILT) Act.**

4 WHEREAS, the PILT Act was enacted in October 1976 and established annual payments  
5 in lieu of taxes (PILT) to local governments to offset the losses in property taxes due to  
6 untaxable federal lands within the local government boundaries; and

7 WHEREAS, the PILT Act further recognized the significant support that local governments  
8 provide to national lands, particularly in the areas of safety, and providing and maintaining  
9 road systems allowing public access; and

10 WHEREAS, the PILT Act focuses primarily on large tracts of federal land including those in  
11 the national park system, the national forests, and lands under the Bureau of Land  
12 Management; and

13 WHEREAS, the United States recognizes the vital national importance of preserving  
14 wetlands and over the years has acquired hundreds of thousands of acres through the U.S.  
15 Fish and Wildlife Service, to ensure their preservation; and

16 WHEREAS, the national U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lands make up a significant area of  
17 this state and includes the Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge encompassing over twenty-one  
18 thousand acres and over one hundred and fifty thousand acres of waterfowl production areas;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, most of these U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lands in this state are concentrated  
21 in the prairie pothole region on the eastern side of the state and disproportionately impact the  
22 tax collections of counties within the region; and

1        WHEREAS, the road system in eastern South Dakota is designed around a one-mile grid,  
2 meaning hundreds of miles of rural county and township roads lie adjacent to U.S. Fish and  
3 Wildlife Service lands that are all maintained and repaired using local tax dollars; and

4        WHEREAS, maintaining county and township roads often represents a significant portion  
5 of the budget for these local governments; and

6        WHEREAS, the extensive road system needed to support U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
7 lands represents a significantly higher cost per acre than other national lands held in  
8 contiguous large tracts:

9        NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Ninth  
10 Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature  
11 urges the members of South Dakota's congressional delegation collaborate to sponsor,  
12 introduce, and champion an amendment to the PILT Act to include U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
13 Service lands.