



## 2024 South Dakota Legislature

# Senate Concurrent Resolution 605

Introduced by: **Senator Larson**

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Affirming the value of grassland ecosystems and the**  
2 **importance of farmers and ranchers as managers.**

3 WHEREAS, it is the right of all South Dakotans to have access to clean water, clean air,  
4 and healthy landscapes that they can leave to future generations as a net positive land legacy;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, grassland ecosystems comprise one of the earth's dominant biomes, covering  
7 up to forty percent of its terrestrial area; and

8 WHEREAS, grassland ecosystems improve water quality, increase filtration, and reduce  
9 runoff and flooding; and

10 WHEREAS, grassland ecosystems are essential to maintaining biodiversity, providing  
11 important habitat for myriad native wildlife, pollinators, livestock, and game animals; and

12 WHEREAS, the deep, living roots of a grassland ecosystem and native prairie allow for  
13 significant carbon storage and reduce nitrogen loss in the soil; and

14 WHEREAS, new opportunities for innovation and research in grassland management, soil  
15 health, and native prairie restoration for future generation are emergent; and

16 WHEREAS, ranchers increasingly use managed grazing and regenerative soil practices to  
17 ensure the sustainability of this ecosystem for future generations;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Ninety-Ninth Legislature of the  
19 State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the grassland  
20 ecosystem of the Great Plains of North America can be part of the solution to improve water  
21 quality, support biodiversity, sequester carbon, maintain healthy soil, and provide habitat for  
22 wildlife, and that farmers and ranchers are crucial in conserving grassland ecosystems.