



2024 South Dakota Legislature
Senate Concurrent Resolution 605

SENATE ENGROSSED

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; and

5 WHEREAS, there is an obligation to leave a net positive land legacy to future generations;
6 and

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Ninety-Ninth Legislature of the
20 State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the grassland
21 ecosystem of the Great Plains of North America can be part of the solution to improve water

- 1 quality, support biodiversity, sequester carbon, maintain healthy soil, and provide habitat for
- 2 wildlife, and that farmers and ranchers are crucial in conserving grassland ecosystems.