



## 2025 South Dakota Legislature

# Senate Concurrent Resolution 605

Introduced by: **Senator Deibert**

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Promoting a resilient and healthy Black Hills forest**  
2 **through active forest management and retention of the current forest**  
3 **products industry.**

4 WHEREAS, all South Dakota citizens benefit from resilient and healthy national, state, and  
5 private forests; and

6 WHEREAS, resilient and healthy forests enable socioeconomic stability and development,  
7 forest products generation, recreational diversity, tourism trade, hunting and angling  
8 opportunities, grazing and foraging resource availability, wildlife habitat enhancement, water  
9 quality and quantity improvement, quality of life enrichment, and general community well-  
10 being; and

11 WHEREAS, dense forests promote increasingly damaging wildfires, which can threaten and  
12 destroy homes, habitat, and natural resources; and

13 WHEREAS, dense forests encourage destructive and costly mountain pine beetle  
14 epidemics; and

15 WHEREAS, pine beetle populations have been expanding the last three years in the Black  
16 Hills; and

17 WHEREAS, in the absence of increased active forest management, the Black Hills of South  
18 Dakota will experience wildfires of greater severity and further pine beetle epidemics; and

19 WHEREAS, further reductions to the forest products industry will occur without  
20 substantially increased active forest management actions that include the harvesting of  
21 sawtimber and post-sized and pole-sized material along with pre-commercial treatments; and

1        WHEREAS, although the United States Forest Service holds the majority of the forested  
2 land in this state, all South Dakotans benefit from well-managed forests, and all should have  
3 a voice in management decisions;

4        NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the One Hundredth Legislature of  
5 the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the State  
6 of South Dakota recognizes the critical role of active forest management in reducing the  
7 threats to the Black Hills forest from wildfires, insects, and disease; and

8        BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State of South Dakota recognizes the critical necessity  
9 of retaining the remaining forest products industry and encourages efforts from federal and  
10 state land management agencies to increase active forest management actions.