



2025 South Dakota Legislature
Senate Concurrent Resolution 605
ENROLLED

AN ACT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Adopted by the Senate,
Concurred in by the House of Representatives,

February 19, 2025
February 21, 2025

Chris Karr
President Pro Tempore
of the Senate

Peggy Laurenz
Secretary of the Senate

Jon Hansen
Speaker of the House

Patricia Miller
Chief Clerk