



2026 South Dakota Legislature

House Concurrent Resolution

6003

Introduced by: Representative Uhre-Balk

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** recognizing the importance of conservation and restoration
2 practices in addressing water shortages and forest fire mitigation in the Black Hills,
3 and commending the organizations engaged in this work.

4 WHEREAS, access to clean and reliable water resources is fundamental to the health,
5 livelihood, and prosperity of all South Dakotans; and

6 WHEREAS, the Black Hills region faces growing water shortages that threaten
7 communities, ecosystems, and future generations; and

8 WHEREAS, conservation and restoration practices, such as native vegetation restoration,
9 stream and riparian rehabilitation, beaver dam analogues, and other low-tech, process-based
10 methods, have been shown to spread, slow, and store water on the landscape, improving
11 both water quality and water availability; and

12 WHEREAS, these practices serve an important role in fire mitigation by breaking up fuel
13 continuity, increasing soil moisture, supporting green riparian corridors that act as natural
14 firebreaks, and helping landscapes recover more quickly after wildfires; and

15 WHEREAS, these practices not only enhance water resilience and reduce fire risks, but
16 also improve soil health, support wildlife habitat, reduce flooding, and strengthen local
17 ecosystems; and

18 WHEREAS, local conservation districts, watershed groups, landowners, tribal nations,
19 nonprofits, and state and federal partners, are working collaboratively in the Black Hills to
20 restore streams, wetlands, and riparian areas; and

21 WHEREAS, conservation and restoration are cost-effective, science-based tools to address
22 water shortages, mitigate wildfire risks, and create lasting ecological and community benefits;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the One Hundred
2 First Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that
3 conservation and restoration practices are recognized as critical strategies to address water
4 shortages and mitigate wildfire risk in the Black Hills; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature commends the dedicated organizations in
6 the Black Hills Watershed Collaborative, landowners, and community members engaged in
7 this important work, and affirms its support for continued conservation and restoration efforts
8 that ensure resilient water resources, healthy forests, and safer communities for generations
9 to come.