



2026 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Concurrent Resolution 607

Introduced by: **Senator Crabtree**

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** supporting congressional authorization for, and
2 **federal participation in, major rural water supply projects identified by the**
3 **South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems.**

4 WHEREAS, safe, reliable, and sustainable drinking water supplies are essential to public
5 health, economic development, agricultural productivity, and quality of life for the citizens of
6 South Dakota; and

7 WHEREAS, many regions of South Dakota face long-term water supply challenges that
8 cannot be addressed solely through local or municipal systems and instead require large-
9 scale, regional solutions; and

10 WHEREAS, the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems represents rural water
11 systems, municipalities, and regional water suppliers across this state, and has a long history
12 of working collaboratively with state and federal partners to advance responsible water
13 development; and

14 WHEREAS, in 2024 and 2025, the membership of the South Dakota Association of Rural
15 Water Systems formally adopted resolutions supporting the continued development,
16 authorization, and funding of several major regional water supply initiatives that address
17 documented water quantity and quality needs across multiple regions of this state; and

18 WHEREAS, South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems projects include the Dakota
19 Mainstem Regional Water System, which serves central and southern portions of eastern
20 South Dakota; the Western Dakota Regional Water System, which is addressing long-term
21 water deficits in western South Dakota; the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System, which
22 includes the pursuit of congressional authorization for feasibility work related to a second
23 expansion to meet future demand; and the Water Investment in Northern South Dakota,
24 which supports municipal, rural, and industrial water needs in the northern region of eastern
25 South Dakota; and

1 WHEREAS, large-scale water supply projects typically require congressional authorization
2 and federal participation through the United States Department of the Interior's Bureau of
3 Reclamation and other federal agencies before construction and full implementation can
4 proceed; and

5 WHEREAS, congressional authorization is a critical prerequisite to securing federal cost-
6 share participation, advancing feasibility studies, and ensuring that projects can move forward
7 in a timely and cost-effective manner; and

8 WHEREAS, demonstrated alignment among local water providers, state leadership
9 through the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and South Dakota's
10 congressional delegation strengthens the state's position in competing for federal
11 authorization and appropriations;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the One Hundred First Legislature
13 of the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that long-
14 term, regional water supply planning is critical for South Dakota's future, particularly the
15 major rural and regional water supply projects identified in the resolutions adopted by the
16 South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that continued coordination is encouraged among local water
18 systems, the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems, the Department of Agriculture
19 and Natural Resources, and federal partners, to ensure these projects are developed in a
20 fiscally responsible manner that serves the long-term interests of the state and its citizens;
21 and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor
23 of South Dakota, the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the South Dakota
24 congressional delegation, the United States Department of the Interior's Bureau of
25 Reclamation, and the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems.