



Joint Committee on Appropriations  
SENATOR ERNIE OTTEN, CO-CHAIR  
REPRESENTATIVE MIKE DERBY, CO-CHAIR

March 3, 2026  
Kevin Robling, Secretary  
Department of Game, Fish and Parks  
523 East Capitol Ave  
Pierre, SD 57501

### Letter of Intent Regarding Nest Predator Bounty Program Parameters

Dear Secretary Kevin Robling,

This Letter of Intent sets forth a particular view held by the Joint Committee on Appropriations (JCA) in approving your appropriation in the 2026 Legislative session. As such, this Letter of Intent seeks to supplement that legislation with specific policy guidance as approved on March 3, 2026.

While the guidance does not have the direct force of statutory law, it rests solidly on a long-standing tradition of Legislative-Executive relationships in South Dakota, and it will be used by the Joint Committee as one basis for the fiscal oversight of your agency and its continued funding.

The Joint Committee on Appropriations approved the Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) budget on March 3, 2026. Within the GFP budget, approximately \$500,000 is allocated for the Nest Predator Bounty Program. Currently, the Nest Predator Bounty Program begins on March 1 for youth under the age of 18 and is then open to all South Dakota residents from April 1 until July 1, or until the maximum payout of \$500,000 is reached. The following primary nest predator tails are eligible for compensation: raccoons, striped skunks, badgers, opossums, and red fox.

It is the intent of the committee to place new parameters on the expenditure of moneys for the Nest Predator Bounty Program.

1. Only children 17 and under are eligible for the program.
2. Children are allowed to turn in a maximum of 25 tails for compensation.
3. The agency shall only spend up to \$250,000 on the bounty program.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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Representative Mike Derby  
Lead Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Appropriations

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Senator Ernie Otten  
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Appropriations

cc: Russell Olson, Auditor General  
Jim Terwilliger, Commissioner, Bureau of Finance and Management