

State of South Dakota

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2019

193B0879

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS ENGROSSED NO. **SR 7** - 3/29/2019

Introduced by: Senators Russell, DiSanto, Jensen (Phil), and Nelson

1 A RESOLUTION, Urging South Dakota's congressional representation to seek a federal disaster
2 declaration and to provide federal aid for counties and tribes in South Dakota suffering from
3 devastating effects created by Winter Storm Ulmer.

4 WHEREAS, Winter Storm Ulmer brought freezing rain and drizzle, snow, high winds, and
5 flooding, leading to blizzard conditions in many areas of South Dakota on March 13 to March 15,
6 2019; and

7 WHEREAS, dangerous road and weather conditions led to the closure of schools, state offices,
8 and many local government offices and caused interruptions in the normal course of mail delivery,
9 school, business, and farm work activities; and

10 WHEREAS, Governor Kristi Noem signed an executive order on March 15, 2019, declaring a
11 state emergency due to the extreme weather conditions in the State of South Dakota; and

12 WHEREAS, strong winds and rainfall caused damage to private homes and infrastructure damage,
13 including ongoing flooding; and



1 WHEREAS, the full impact of the damage to the state is yet to be realized and will continue to
2 significantly affect farmers, ranchers, and South Dakota's entire agriculture industry; and

3 WHEREAS, the Oglala Sioux Tribe's roads and water supply infrastructure were devastated,
4 leaving residents stranded and without drinking water, and South Dakota National Guard members
5 have been sent to provide drinking water and assist; and

6 WHEREAS, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe is facing ongoing flooding and has opened dams and is
7 preparing for additional flooding; and

8 WHEREAS, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe officials have declared an emergency, and other
9 tribes in the state have suffered damage and face the threat of flooding; and

10 WHEREAS, some residents have been evacuated, including by helicopter, and South Dakotans,
11 livestock, infrastructure, and wildlife remain at risk in certain areas:

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Ninety-Fourth Legislature of
13 the State of South Dakota, that the South Dakota Legislature urges Representative Dusty Johnson and
14 Senators Michael Rounds and John Thune to work with Governor Kristi Noem, the United States
15 Congress, President Trump, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to approve a
16 Presidential Major Disaster Declaration and to provide aid for counties and tribes in South Dakota
17 suffering from devastating effects created by the Winter Storm Ulmer blizzard and the subsequent
18 flooding in its wake.