



2020 South Dakota Legislature

House Concurrent Resolution 6011

Introduced by: **Representative Willadsen**

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Supporting the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.**

2 WHEREAS, Congress passed the Pittman-Robertson, Dingell-Johnson and Wallop-Breaux
3 Acts to establish funds financed by hunters, recreational shooters, anglers, and boaters to
4 support wildlife and sportfish recovery and management; and

5 WHEREAS, South Dakota's residents and visitors have a long tradition of hunting, fishing
6 and trapping and also enjoy watching wildlife around their homes and during trips away from
7 home; and

8 WHEREAS, South Dakota's residents and visitors contribute more than one billion dollars
9 in direct spending in the state annually on outdoor recreation activities; and

10 WHEREAS, South Dakota's tourism industry attracted 14.5 million visitors in 2019, and
11 South Dakota's natural landscapes and wildlife are critical for attracting visitors; and

12 WHEREAS, a dedicated and sustainable funding mechanism is needed for many species of
13 fish and wildlife that are not pursued by hunters, trappers, or anglers; and

14 WHEREAS, the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks has the primary
15 statutory responsibility for the management of fish and wildlife in the state; and

16 WHEREAS, South Dakota's Wildlife Action Plan addresses the needs of the state's fish and
17 wildlife species, including species of greatest conservation need; and

18 WHEREAS, limited financial resources are available to fully implement the state's Wildlife
19 Action Plan to help prevent future threatened and endangered species listings and provide for
20 the needs of all species and key habitats; and

1 WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife
2 Resources, is composed of 26 business and conservation leaders, recommended that a new
3 funding mechanism be established for state fish and wildlife conservation and management
4 for current and future generations; and

5 WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Panel recommended that Congress dedicate up to \$1.3 billion
6 annually to the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Subaccount of the Pittman-Robertson
7 Wildlife Restoration Act to diversify the funding and management of all fish and wildlife; and

8 WHEREAS, funding is also needed to assist South Dakota tribal governments with fish and
9 wildlife conservation and management; and

10 WHEREAS, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act would fulfill the Blue Ribbon Panel's
11 recommendation by making funds available to address the needs of species of greatest
12 conservation need as identified in state wildlife action plans:

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-Fifth
14 Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the South Dakota
15 Legislature supports the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, which will dedicate \$1.3 billion
16 annually to the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Subaccount of the Pittman-Robertson
17 Act to help address the needs of all fish and wildlife and will also dedicate \$98 million annually
18 to assist with tribal fish and wildlife management needs in the U.S.; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Legislature supports the Alliance for
20 America's Fish and Wildlife's campaign to secure passage of the Recovering America's Wildlife
21 Act and urges Governor Noem, Representative Johnson, Senator Rounds, and Senator Thune
22 to support this effort; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the South Dakota Legislature, acknowledges its support
24 for state policy and legislation to broaden dedicated funding mechanisms for wildlife
25 conservation, Wildlife Action Plan implementation, enhanced tribal fish and wildlife
26 management, and aid in providing the required match when new dedicated federal funding is
27 secured.