



## 2021 South Dakota Legislature

# House Commemoration 8003

Introduced by: **Representative Blare**

1    **A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Honoring Rich and Sara Grim as the 2020 Hugh**  
 2            **Hammond Bennett National Award for Conservation Excellence recipients.**

3            WHEREAS, invoking the leadership and dedication of Hugh Hammond Bennett, father of  
 4 the modern soil conservation movement and the first chief of the Soil Conservation Service  
 5 now known as Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Hugh Hammond Bennett National  
 6 Award for Conservation Excellence recognizes Rich and Sara Grim as producers who have  
 7 exemplified outstanding service through development and implementation of sound  
 8 conservation planning and other conservation techniques; and

9            WHEREAS, the three-thousand-six-hundred-acre Grim Ranch near Bonesteel has been in  
 10 Sara's family for generations and is comprised of rugged land that is good for raising livestock;  
 11 and

12           WHEREAS, Rich and Sara worked for years with the Natural Resources Conservation  
 13 Service (NRCS) and the Gregory County Conservation District on a comprehensive and flexible  
 14 resource management plan that integrates conservation practices to improve pasture design  
 15 and utilization, combat invasive plants, reduce erosion, improve water access, improve  
 16 forages, and manage nutrients; and

17           WHEREAS, Rich and Sara pioneered prescribed burns in their area to help control the  
 18 invasive eastern red cedar trees that are rapidly infesting open lands, choking out native  
 19 grasses, and changing the ecology and amount of grazing land available in many areas of the  
 20 state; and

21           WHEREAS, the couple is eager to learn and share their experiences by hosting numerous  
 22 tours and workshops and serving as mentors for those who need help in building healthier  
 23 soil, crops, or livestock; and

1        WHEREAS, Mike Brown, executive director of the National Association of State  
2 Conservation Agencies noted, "Richard and Sara Grim are true pioneers in their conservation  
3 efforts. Their desire to uphold the highest standard of conservation is evident in every decision  
4 they make for their ranch. If I were starting out in ranching tomorrow, these are the two  
5 people I would want as role models.";

6        NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Ninety-Sixth Legislature of the State  
7 of South Dakota, that Rich and Sara Grim are recognized for earning the 2020 Hugh Hammond  
8 Bennett National Award for Conservation Excellence.