



## 2024 South Dakota Legislature

# Senate Commemoration 813

Introduced by: **Senator Mehlhaff**

1 **A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Honoring the Slovek Ranch as the 2023 Leopold**  
2 **Conservation Award recipient.**

3 WHEREAS, the Leopold Conservation Award, named for renowned conservationist Aldo  
4 Leopold, recognizes farm and ranch families who demonstrate outstanding conservation  
5 leadership on their land and in their communities; and

6 WHEREAS, a commitment to the health of South Dakota's natural resources is exemplified  
7 by the Slovek Ranch as the recipient of the 2023 Leopold Conservation Award; and

8 WHEREAS, Bill Slovek inherited more than rolling acres of prairie northwest of Philip from  
9 his father Earl. Bill also inherited his father's legacy of careful land stewardship, and alongside  
10 his wife Pennie, he continues the legacy through their children Bo, Brock, and Belinda; and

11 WHEREAS, Earl's open mind benefited Bill as he came home from college, and began  
12 buying land, developing water infrastructure, and implementing a new grazing strategy; and

13 WHEREAS, Slovek Ranch's grazing system has produced an increase in the diversity of  
14 plant species across the landscape and provides feed and habitat for wildlife and threatened  
15 grassland birds and pollinators; and

16 WHEREAS, Bill has evolved into a conservationist whose years of careful observation  
17 mimic an approach resembling Aldo Leopold's own way of studying soil, plants, wildlife, and  
18 people's impact on the landscape; and

19 WHEREAS, Bill's ability to adapt and innovate has produced an improved landscape and  
20 conservation ethic that he can hand down to his children;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Ninety-Ninth Legislature of the State  
22 of South Dakota, that the Slovek Ranch is recognized for earning the 2023 Leopold  
23 Conservation Award in South Dakota.