

2024 South Dakota Legislature
Senate Concurrent Resolution 605

**AMENDMENT SCR605A
FOR THE INTRODUCED RESOLUTION**

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Affirming the value of grassland ecosystems and the**
2 **importance of farmers and ranchers as managers.**

3 WHEREAS, it is the right of all South Dakotans to have access to clean water, clean air,
4 and healthy landscapes; ~~and that they can leave to future generations as a net positive land~~
5 ~~legacy; and~~

6 WHEREAS, there is an obligation to leave a net positive land legacy to future generations;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, grassland ecosystems comprise one of the earth's dominant biomes, covering
9 up to forty percent of its terrestrial area; and

10 WHEREAS, grassland ecosystems improve water quality, increase filtration, and reduce
11 runoff and flooding; and

12 WHEREAS, grassland ecosystems are essential to maintaining biodiversity, providing
13 important habitat for myriad native wildlife, pollinators, livestock, and game animals; and

14 WHEREAS, the deep, living roots of a grassland ecosystem and native prairie allow for
15 significant carbon storage and reduce nitrogen loss in the soil; and

16 WHEREAS, new opportunities for innovation and research in grassland management, soil
17 health, and native prairie restoration for future generation are emergent; and

18 WHEREAS, ranchers increasingly use managed grazing and regenerative soil practices to
19 ensure the sustainability of this ecosystem for future generations:

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Ninety-Ninth Legislature of the
21 State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the grassland
22 ecosystem of the Great Plains of North America can be part of the solution to improve water

- 1 quality, support biodiversity, sequester carbon, maintain healthy soil, and provide habitat for
- 2 wildlife, and that farmers and ranchers are crucial in conserving grassland ecosystems.

AMENDMENT