

State of South Dakota

NINETY-SECOND SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2017

756Y0648

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1015

Introduced by: Representatives Goodwin, Campbell, DiSanto, Frye-Mueller, Howard, Latterell, Lesmeister, Livermont, and Marty and Senators Nelson and Netherton

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, instructing the Department of Transportation to ensure
2 proper access for farm and grazing lands by identifying and reevaluating excessive highway
3 setbacks.

4 WHEREAS, farm and grazing lands are an extremely important resource for South Dakota
5 at large; and

6 WHEREAS, the expansion and protection of this resource is critical for South Dakota's
7 future; and

8 WHEREAS, the total acreage of land in farms is 43,257,079 and the state owns 0.6 percent
9 of that land; and

10 WHEREAS, since 1982, one hundred fifty-three thousand acres of farm and grazing land
11 have been converted to developed lands; and

12 WHEREAS, current average rates of return on agricultural land in South Dakota remain
13 depressed; and

14 WHEREAS, for 2016, the average ratio of gross cash rent to current land value was 2.7



1 percent for all agricultural land, 3.3 percent for cropland, 3.3 percent for hay land, and 2.4
2 percent for rangeland; and

3 WHEREAS, during the 1990s, the same ratios were 7.4 percent for all agricultural land, 8.0
4 percent for cropland, and 6.8 percent for rangeland; and

5 WHEREAS, since 2012, cash prices received for corn decreased approximately 52 percent,
6 while farm-level soybean and wheat prices each decreased more than 40 percent; and

7 WHEREAS, the decreases in crop prices and crop input prices have continued to pressure
8 crop production margins and farm profitability; and

9 WHEREAS, South Dakota crop farmers and ranchers have experienced declines in net farm
10 income; and

11 WHEREAS, decreasing availability of farmland and dwindling profitability deter young
12 farmers from investing in the industry; and

13 WHEREAS, farmers and ranchers must maximize productivity of available agricultural
14 land; and

15 WHEREAS, South Dakotans have noticed state highways and interstate highways have
16 excessive setbacks in need of re-evaluation to ensure that South Dakotans are not unnecessarily
17 deprived of the use of farm and grazing land; and

18 WHEREAS, excessive highway setbacks squander crucial farm and grazing lands that
19 farmers and ranchers could utilize; and

20 WHEREAS, excessive highway setbacks adversely affect productivity of those who
21 shoulder the majority of infrastructure costs of South Dakota through taxation; and

22 WHEREAS, wasted farming and grazing land restricts South Dakota's tremendous economic
23 potential; and

24 WHEREAS, this harms the well-being of young South Dakota farmers and ranchers and

1 South Dakota as a whole:

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninety-
3 Second Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the
4 Legislature encourages the Department of Transportation to aggressively and thoroughly review
5 all highway setbacks and make every effort to return any excess back to use by South Dakotans;
6 and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature hereby recognizes as good stewards of
8 the fertile plains which God blessed the beautiful state of South Dakota with, we must eternally
9 scrutinize government retention of invaluable farm and ranch lands from the good people of
10 South Dakota.