

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1006

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging the United States Forest Service, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and other federal agencies to actively manage mountain pine beetle infestations on lands under their control in South Dakota.

WHEREAS, the current mountain pine beetle epidemic in the Black Hills that began in 1997 has been exacerbated by the lack of management on lands managed by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the spread of mountain pine beetles to private and state lands, including Custer State Park, due to the limited or nonexistent treatment of mountain pine beetle infested trees on adjacent United States Forest Service lands has forced private landowners as well as the South Dakota Departments of Agriculture and Game, Fish and Parks to incur unnecessary costs to control this pest; and

WHEREAS, the mountain pine beetle epidemic in the Black Elk Wilderness Area and other federal lands has become so widespread that the National Park Service recently announced it will cancel the annual Independence Day fireworks show at Mount Rushmore in 2010 due to the threat of catastrophic wildfire from the hundreds of thousands of standing dead trees recently killed by mountain pine beetle:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Eighty-fifth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the South Dakota Legislature urges the United States Forest Service, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and other federal agencies to structure their policies so the mountain pine beetle epidemic is actively managed through proven management practices and active treatment of infested trees in South Dakota.

Adopted by the House of Representatives,  
Concurred in by the Senate,

February 9, 2010  
February 11, 2010

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Timothy A. Rave  
Speaker of the House

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Karen Gerdes  
Chief Clerk of the House

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Dennis Daugaard  
President of the Senate

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Trudy Evenstad  
Secretary of the Senate