

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1002

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Supporting the continued operation of the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery.

WHEREAS, sport fishing routinely draws more than 268,000 participants in South Dakota annually, constituting an important component of South Dakota's economy, with angler expenditures exceeding \$313 million in 2011; and South Dakota benefited from an estimated \$62 million in salaries, wages, and business owner earnings in 2006, and created 2,500 jobs; and

WHEREAS, the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks received more than \$8.6 million in revenue from the sale of fishing licenses in fiscal year 2014, which represents a significant portion of the agency's budget; and

WHEREAS, trout produced in both state and federal hatchery systems and stocked into waters throughout South Dakota is important in maintaining sport fishing and its economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery produces trout to fill needs for federal, tribal, and state water development projects throughout western South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery & Archives, established in 1896, has stocked waters in western South Dakota, including tribal waters on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Reservations; and

WHEREAS, the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery & Archives serves as a key economic contributor to the city of Spearfish, bringing in \$2.1 million annually or a return of \$62 for every \$1 invested; and D.C. Booth is the city's top tourist attraction with over 150,000 visitors annually with \$840,000 being spent annually by nonresident visitors who attribute their visits to Spearfish to the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery; and

WHEREAS, over \$141,000 is brought in annually in local and state tax and fee revenue from the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery & Archives; and

WHEREAS, the staffing, expertise, resources, and a large portion of the funding for the operation and maintenance of the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery & Archives is supplied by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, further benefiting the city of Spearfish and the state of South Dakota; and the existence of D.C. Booth contributes 27 jobs to the area; and

WHEREAS, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service recently completed a study predicting that the closure of the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery will curtail the stocking of South Dakota's waters, entailing a loss of associated economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, the continuation of the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery's role as a trout producer, and an educational and tourist facility is extremely important to South Dakota's economy and sport fishing:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Ninetieth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that:

- (1) The South Dakota Legislature supports the continued operation of the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and urges the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, in partnership with the Department of Game, Fish and Parks, to maintain its current mission of stocking South Dakota waters for recreational fishing and the recovery of threatened and endangered species;
- (2) The South Dakota Legislature supports the operation of the hatchery and adjacent federal lands in a manner that promotes public recreation and scientific research and educational activities; and
- (3) The South Dakota Legislature urges the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Game, Fish and Parks to work with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to protect the operation of the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this House Concurrent Resolution be sent to all members of the South Dakota delegation to the United States Congress, the Secretary of the Interior, the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and Governor Dennis Daugaard.

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

January 26, 2015
January 28, 2015

Dean Wink
Speaker of the House

Arlene Kvislen
Chief Clerk of the House

Matt Michels
President of the Senate

Kay Johnson
Secretary of the Senate