

Senate Resolution No. 1711

By Committee on Federal and State Affairs

2-7

1 A RESOLUTION opposing the black-footed ferret programmatic safe
2 harbor agreement and environmental assessment.

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4 WHEREAS, The United States fish and wildlife service reintroduced
5 black-footed ferrets into Logan county, Kansas as part of a recovery effort
6 in December 2007; and

7 WHEREAS, The reintroduction has been expensive, unsuccessful and
8 wrought with problems ranging from destructive prairie dog infestations
9 to monetary losses for Kansas landowners; and

10 WHEREAS, The U.S. fish and wildlife service has drafted a black-
11 footed ferret programmatic safe harbor agreement and an environmental
12 assessment to encourage non-federal landowners to voluntarily allow
13 reintroduction of black-footed ferrets on their properties; and

14 WHEREAS, The safe harbor agreement and environmental
15 assessment is insufficient and misleading. It was developed rashly and
16 without adequate information; and

17 WHEREAS, No environmental impact statement was conducted
18 despite the fact that it is required when major federal action significantly
19 impacts the human environment; and

20 WHEREAS, The U.S. fish and wildlife service did not coordinate with
21 county or local governments in the development of the safe harbor
22 agreement; and

23 WHEREAS, The safe harbor agreement included no reference or
24 discussion of conflicts with local government plans, even though Logan
25 county has a plan opposing the ferret introduction; and

26 WHEREAS, The safe harbor agreement failed to mention the impact
27 to non-enrolled, adjacent landowners in the present and the future, despite
28 the fact that there is evidence that the introduction of black-footed ferrets
29 in Logan county has detrimentally affected neighboring landowners; and

30 WHEREAS, There has been a complete disregard for the risk to the
31 health and safety of Kansans because of plague outbreaks. The plague is
32 now present in all 12 states where black-footed ferrets have been
33 introduced: Now, therefore,

34 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we have an
35 obligation and responsibility to represent the interests of the people of
36 this state and promote economic stability, encourage a sound environment

1 and protect the health, safety and welfare of our citizens.

2 *Be it further resolved:* That we oppose the black-footed ferret
3 programmatic safe harbor agreement and environmental assessment,
4 request that the U.S. fish and wildlife service exclude Kansas from the
5 territory contained in the safe harbor agreement and request that the U.S.
6 fish and wildlife service refrain from further releases of black-footed
7 ferrets in Kansas.

8 *Be it further resolved:* That should the U.S. fish and wildlife service
9 move forward with the safe harbor agreement in Kansas against the
10 wishes of the Senate of the State of Kansas, we strongly encourage the
11 U.S. fish and wildlife service to use a formal rule-making process to
12 stipulate protection of all private landowners in areas where releases of
13 the black-footed ferret might occur, rather than utilize the informal safe
14 harbor agreement.

15 *Be it further resolved:* That should the U.S. fish and wildlife service
16 move forward with the safe harbor agreement in Kansas against the
17 wishes of the Senate of the State of Kansas, we strongly encourage the
18 U.S. fish and wildlife service to conduct an environmental impact
19 statement before moving forward.

20 *Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate shall send an
21 enrolled copy of this resolution to the administrator of the U.S. fish and
22 wildlife service; the governors, state legislatures and congressional
23 delegations of Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, South Dakota,
24 Utah and Wyoming; the Kansas congressional delegation; the U.S.
25 secretary of agriculture; and the Kansas secretary of agriculture.