

ORIGINAL SENATE  
JOINT RESOLUTION  
NO. 0004

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2, SENATE  
SIXTIETH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING  
2009 GENERAL SESSION

A JOINT RESOLUTION expressing Wyoming's opposition to inclusion of the black tailed prairie dog on the list of candidate species to be considered for listing as a threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

WHEREAS, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service is considering including the black tailed prairie dog on the list of candidate species to be listed as a threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973; and

WHEREAS, there are two hundred three thousand (203,000) acres of occupied black tailed prairie dog habitat over public and private lands in Wyoming; and

WHEREAS, the occupied black tailed prairie dog habitat is one hundred three thousand (103,000) acres over the objective habitat area set by the Wyoming game and fish department; and

WHEREAS, although the plague is currently active in the thunder basin national grasslands in northeastern Wyoming, the plague is only affecting seven percent (7%) of Wyoming's total acreage of black tailed prairie dogs, leaving ninety-three percent (93%) of the Wyoming black tailed prairie dog population thriving; and

WHEREAS, the black tailed prairie dog destroys all ground cover in its habitat; and

WHEREAS, this destruction causes soil erosion leading to increased sediment in streams causing poor habitat for fish; and

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WHEREAS, this destruction and loss of ground cover is very detrimental to feed for livestock and wildlife.

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:*

**Section 1.** The state of Wyoming finds that the substantial scientific or commercial information demonstrates that the black tailed prairie dog population has been increasing for the past four (4) decades.

**Section 2.** The United States Fish and Wildlife Service should not list the black tailed prairie dog as a threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

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**Section 3.** That the Secretary of State of Wyoming transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, the members of the Wyoming Congressional delegation, the Director of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and to the lead United States Fish and Wildlife Service Field Office.

(END)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

TIME APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this act originated in the Senate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk