

Whereas, The State of South Dakota is suffering from widespread drought conditions, low humidity, high wind, and high temperatures that create serious peril for our state; and,

Whereas, The entirety of our state is suffering from abnormally dry, or moderate and severe drought conditions, with nearly 80 percent of our state being in moderate and severe drought conditions; and,

Whereas, Drought conditions threaten life, livestock, property, and the livelihood of our citizens, and resultant fires, worsened by these conditions, cause significant damage to infrastructure and cause unexpected costs; and,

Whereas, Substantial state and local government resources have been committed to help alleviate the effects of this severe weather and dangerous fire conditions, and local workforce and firefighting resources are being depleted for firefighting efforts; and,

Whereas, State, local, and federal government activities and resources are required to contain and control wildfire activity throughout the state:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KRISTI NOEM, Governor of the State of South Dakota, under provisions of SDCL 34-48A, otherwise known as the Emergency Management law, do hereby declare a state of emergency to exist in South Dakota during this fire incident period through June 1, 2021, unless further extended by a subsequent Executive Order.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, Available resources and functions of state government are hereby authorized under the coordination of the Department of Agriculture, its successor the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the Department of Public Safety, and the Wildland Fire Division, as necessary to provide relief and assistance.

Dated in Pierre, South Dakota this 30th day of March, 2021.

Kristi Noem

Governor of South Dakota

ATTEST:

Steve Barnett

Secretary of State