The 2024 South Dakota Legislative Session kicked off this week and we are off and running. As of Thursday night, there are 170 bills filed with the Legislative Research Council.

As we’ve done in the past, this newsletter will come out weekly on Friday. If there is a legislative item that you would like to contact your legislators about, the best time to make that contact is over the weekend. The strength of SD Farm Bureau’s legislative efforts is in the grassroots process of its members reaching out to their respective legislators.

**State of the State**
On Tuesday, Governor Kristi Noem addressed a joint session of the legislative bodies to give her State of the State address. Governor Noem touted the management of the state during the pandemic and the fact that businesses stayed open and continued to operate. Within the State of the State Address, Governor Noem also explained the success of South Dakota through a “top ten” list. One provision in the list includes an attempt to pass a foreign ownership of agricultural land bill for the 2024 legislative session. Our organization will continue to work with stakeholders to watch the legislation and keep you updated on any developments.

**Tax Cut Conversation Continues into 2024 Legislative Session**
In testimony on Thursday, SDFB opposed HB 1001 in accordance with policy passed by our voting delegates at our annual convention. HB 1001 would repeal the 2027 sunset for the state sales tax reduction. During the 2023 Legislative Session, House Bill 1137 was signed into law and reduced the state sales tax from 4.5% to 4.2%. A condition of that bill was the state sales tax cut is set to revert to 4.5% with the 2027 sunset clause.

SDFB, along with South Dakota Retailers and the Sioux Falls Chamber, opposed the bill due to caution surrounding the future of South Dakota’s economy as well as the threat of the grocery sales tax cut being on the 2024 ballot. Within the past 10 years, South Dakota’s budget has also almost doubled for multiple reasons. It is clear that since the start of the COVID pandemic, South Dakota has experienced an extraordinary increase in state revenues. Some of this comes from economic growth and some from inflation, but much of it stems from an unprecedented amount of one-time federal funding. Unfortunately, HB 1001 passed the House Taxation committee and will be heard on the House of Representatives floor. SDFB will continue to oppose the legislation as it makes it way down to the floor.

**Owner-Occupied Bill Withdrawn**
As is typical with the South Dakota Legislature, a bill pertaining to property taxes was introduced. HB 1040 would have sought to cap valuations on owner-occupied properties. SDFB was opposed to the bill as it would have shifted the burden from owner-occupied to agricultural and other properties. Representative Ladner (prime sponsor) of the legislation withdrew her bill from the House of Representative floor; however, an amended bill may present itself later in session. SDFB will keep you updated on the legislation.
SDFB Bill Tracker
The SDFB bill tracking list is up and running. Check it out on the SDFB website. As in past years, it gives you a quick look at the bills we are supporting, opposing, or just watching.

Below is a list of bills that SDFB is supporting, watching, and opposing.

Supporting:
SJR 501: Proposing and submitting to the voters at the next general election, an amendment to the Constitution of the State of South Dakota, authorizing the state to impose work requirements on certain individuals who are eligible for expanded Medicaid.
**Purpose:** This joint resolution would allow the State of South Dakota to impose a work requirement on any person for able-bodied individuals who have not been diagnosed as being physically or mentally disabled.

SJR 502: Providing legislative approval for a future use water permit application by the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System.
**Purpose:** This joint resolution will allow for the approval of the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System to apply for an application for an appropriation of water in excess of ten thousand acre-feet annually.

Watching:
SB 78: Provide for an E15 fuel tax refund.
**Purpose:** This bill would repurpose an existing fund to provide incentives to provide E15 at the pump.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the South Dakota Farm Bureau policy team.

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Helpful Links:
View the SDFB bill-tracker list here.

View the details on any bill by clicking this link and typing in the bill number:
2024 South Dakota Bills

Find contact information for the Legislators here:
2024 South Dakota Legislators

Legislative Cracker Barrels and Coffee:
Aberdeen Area
January 27, 10:00 am – Noon  |  Kessler’s Champion’s Club in the Barnett Center @NSU
February 10, 10:00 am – Noon  |  Kessler’s Champion’s Club in the Barnett Center @NSU
February 14, 10:00 am – Noon  |  Kessler’s Champion’s Club in the Barnett Center @NSU

Selby Area
February 10, 2:30 pm CT  |  Selby Community Golf Course, 201 S Railway St, Selby, SD 57472