



## 2025 South Dakota Legislature

# Senate Commemoration 819

Introduced by: **Senator Sauder**

1 **A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Honoring Blioux River Ranch as the 2024**  
2 **Leopold Conservation Award recipient.**

3 WHEREAS, the Leopold Conservation Award, named for renowned conservationist Aldo  
4 Leopold, recognizes farm and ranch families who demonstrate outstanding conservation  
5 leadership on their land and in their communities; and

6 WHEREAS, a commitment to the health of South Dakota's natural resources is exemplified  
7 by Blioux River Ranch, the recipient of the 2024 Leopold Conservation Award; and

8 WHEREAS, the emphasis of Eli Little, and his father, Barry, on conservation and integration  
9 of livestock rotational grazing reduced input costs while increasing yields and productivity,  
10 thereby allowing Eli to join the family operation as a partner; and

11 WHEREAS, the Littles began to focus on improving the soil's health on every acre of  
12 cropland and pasture at the Blioux River Ranch by integrating two hundred cow-calf pairs into  
13 grazing groups, which led to a decrease in the amount of land needed to annually feed each  
14 cow-pair; and

15 WHEREAS, the Little's rotational grazing allows pastures to flourish without the need for  
16 synthetic fertilizer or pesticides, and encourages native plant species to bloom and provide  
17 food sources for beneficial pollinators and wildlife;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the One Hundredth Legislature of the State  
19 of South Dakota, that Blioux River Ranch is the 2024 Leopold Conservation Award recipient.