

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4026**

Introduced by

Senators T. Mathern, Heitkamp, G. Nelson

Representatives Boucher, Dorso

1 A concurrent resolution urging Congress to enact the Dakota Water Resources Act.

2 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota lost more than 500,000 acres of valuable river bottom lands  
3 as a result of construction of the Missouri River reservoirs under the federal Flood Control Act  
4 of 1944, causing an annual loss of millions of dollars in economic activity as well as other  
5 serious impacts to individuals, political subdivisions, and the state's Indian Nations; and

6 **WHEREAS**, operation of the Pick-Sloan Missouri River dams has caused extensive  
7 damage and erosion to the remaining riverbanks and sediment buildup in areas of the upper  
8 reaches of the Oahe and Garrison reservoirs; and

9 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota was assured by Congress in the federal Flood Control Act of  
10 1944 that the loss of this valuable land and economic return would be offset by completion of  
11 the Garrison Diversion Unit; and

12 **WHEREAS**, project beneficiaries have not realized the promise of the Garrison  
13 Diversion Unit; and

14 **WHEREAS**, construction of the Garrison Diversion Unit has been delayed numerous  
15 times with construction costs increasing and the remaining benefits deferred with each delay;  
16 and

17 **WHEREAS**, the Red River Basin needs a dependable supply of water for the cities of  
18 Fargo and Grand Forks, smaller communities, rural water systems, industry, agricultural  
19 processing, manufacturing, and other purposes, and to protect and enhance the economic  
20 stability and quality of life for the growing population of the Red River Basin; and

21 **WHEREAS**, failure to provide long-term water supply and management across North  
22 Dakota will jeopardize future economic opportunities dependent on water, including industry,  
23 agricultural processing, manufacturing, municipal growth, recreation, and fish and wildlife, and  
24 will adversely affect the entire state; and

1           **WHEREAS**, primary sources of water for many communities across North Dakota are  
2 unsafe and of poor quality and a safe, reliable supply of water is necessary to preserve and  
3 improve the quality of life in rural North Dakota; with these supplies being provided by projects  
4 such as the Southwest Water Pipeline and the Northwest Area Water Supply Project, as well as  
5 other systems now being developed to meet water supply needs; and

6           **WHEREAS**, the Dakota Water Resources Act will identify the most appropriate method  
7 to deliver a safe, reliable, and affordable supply of water to eastern North Dakota to address the  
8 significant water needs of the Red River Valley; and

9           **WHEREAS**, the Dakota Water Resources Act has received broad support from the  
10 state's Indian Nations and communities and organizations across North Dakota in testimony  
11 presented in hearings before the United States Senate and the United States House of  
12 Representatives;

13           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE**  
14 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:**

15           That the Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to  
16 enact the Dakota Water Resources Act; and

17           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Assembly supports the efforts of the  
18 Governor, the Congressional Delegation, legislative leaders, tribal chairmen, and others who  
19 worked together with other interested parties to reach consensus on legislation to complete the  
20 Garrison Diversion Unit Project; and

21           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Assembly urges prompt enactment  
22 of the Dakota Water Resources Act to achieve the goal of improving the long-term water supply  
23 of North Dakota; and

24           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this  
25 resolution to the Governor, the Secretary of the Interior, and each member of the North Dakota  
26 Congressional Delegation.