

Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly, State of North Dakota, begun in the Capitol in the City of Bismarck, on Tuesday, the fifth day of January, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4026
(Senators T. Mathern, Heitkamp, G. Nelson)
(Representatives Boucher, Dorso)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 1999,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State