

**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. 4027**  
(Senators Tomac, Christmann, Freborg, Kilzer)  
(Representatives Grosz, Mahoney)

A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study issues related to the Missouri River in North Dakota.

**WHEREAS**, the Flood Control Act of 1944, as amended, assured benefits to all 10 states within the Missouri River basin under a control and management program that came to be commonly known as the Pick-Sloan Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Congress has directed the United States Army Corps of Engineers to build, operate, and maintain all the features of the Pick-Sloan Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Army Corps of Engineers stated in its final report to Congress dated December 1981 concerning the Missouri River streambank erosion that "bank erosion in this reach results in a permanent net loss of high value lands. This process, unless halted, would eventually transform the present river into a wide area of sandbars and channels, occupying an increasing proportion of the valley width between the bluffs"; and

**WHEREAS**, the lands adjacent to the Missouri River have been and will continue to be seriously eroded and permanently lost to the local landowners and the State of North Dakota because of reservoir management that releases highly fluctuating amounts of clear water capable of eroding and transporting large amounts of soil; and

**WHEREAS**, soil eroded from the banks of the Missouri River is being deposited as a delta in the headwaters of the Oahe Reservoir and Lake Sakakawea thereby causing the water table to rise under the adjacent land, and is increasing the frequency and severity of ice jam hazards and has, according to recent United States Army Corps of Engineers' pronouncements, endangered 6,000 acres of land containing 150 homes, industrial development, and valuable farmland around Lake Oahe; and in the headwaters area of Lake Sakakawea, the delta is endangering the Buford-Trenton irrigation district, the water intake for the city of Williston, and many acres of valuable farmland; and

**WHEREAS**, a similar bank erosion problem exists for a 58-mile reach on the South Dakota-Nebraska border downstream from the Gavins Point Dam and also between the Fort Peck Dam in Montana and Lake Sakakawea; and

**WHEREAS**, the Missouri River will continue to change without additional bank stabilization; and

**WHEREAS**, destructive bank erosion continues when high winter water releases for power generation occur;

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

That the Legislative Council study issues related to the Missouri River in North Dakota; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the study include an examination of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin program, the United States Army Corps of Engineers' master plan, land and natural resource issues, water management, bank stabilization, land use, and development of a long-range vision for the Missouri River in North Dakota; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Council in conducting the study seek input from the Missouri River Coordinated Resource Management Program and the Corps of Engineers; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Council report its findings and recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to the Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

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Secretary of the Senate

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Chief Clerk of the House

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

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Secretary of State