

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3027

Introduced by

Representatives S. Meyer, Haas, Kerzman, Onstad

Senators Krauter, Wardner

1 A concurrent resolution urging the United States Army Corps of Engineers to retain sufficient
2 water in the upper portion of Lake Sakakawea to ensure a stable water supply for the
3 Southwest Pipeline Project and the 26 communities and 3,000 farms and ranches that receive
4 water from the Southwest Pipeline Project and urging the Governor and the Attorney General to
5 take appropriate action to ensure federal officials retain sufficient water in Lake Sakakawea to
6 protect the health and well-being of the citizens of southwest North Dakota.

7 **WHEREAS**, the Pick-Sloan Project, as authorized in the Flood Control Act of 1944, as
8 amended, provides major flood control benefits, recreational benefits, water supply benefits,
9 hydropower benefits, and navigational benefits for the downstream states of Iowa, Nebraska,
10 Missouri, and Kansas through construction of large reservoirs in states lying upstream from
11 these states; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the Pick-Sloan Project reservoirs have been in place for many years, thus
13 providing downstream states in the Missouri River Basin all the benefits promised in the
14 Pick-Sloan Project; and

15 **WHEREAS**, construction of facilities under the Pick-Sloan Project has, to date, resulted
16 in billions of dollars in flood protection to downstream interests and has allowed these
17 downstream interests to develop the original flood plain of the Missouri River for industrial,
18 municipal, and agricultural uses; and

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

22 **WHEREAS**, due to unprecedented drought in the upper Missouri River Basin, the upper
23 basin reservoirs, including Lake Sakakawea, are at historically low levels; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the low level of Lake Sakakawea poses a threat to the 26 communities and
25 the 3,000 rural hook-ups that receive water from the Southwest Pipeline Project;

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

3 That the Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly urges the United States Army Corps of
4 Engineers to retain sufficient water in Lake Sakakawea to ensure a long-term supply for the
5 residents of southwest North Dakota and urges the Governor and the Attorney General to take
6 appropriate action to ensure federal officials retain sufficient water in Lake Sakakawea to
7 protect the health and well-being of the citizens of the area; and

8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this
9 resolution to the Governor; the Attorney General; the District Engineer, Omaha District, United
10 States Army Corps of Engineer; the Division Commander of the Northwestern Division of the
11 United States Army Corps of Engineers; the Secretary of the Army; the Secretary of the Interior;
12 and each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.