

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4028**

Introduced by

Senators Tomac, Christmann, Freborg, Kilzer

Representatives Grosz, Mahoney

1 A concurrent resolution urging United States Army Corps of Engineers to include provisions for  
2 the protection of recreation, municipal, industrial, irrigation, and other interests on the Missouri  
3 River in North Dakota in developing a revised master manual for the future operation of the  
4 Pick-Sloan Project.

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

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

11 **WHEREAS**, the Pick-Sloan Project provides major flood control benefits, recreational  
12 benefits, water supply benefits, hydropower benefits, and navigational benefits for the  
13 downstream states of Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, and Kansas through construction of large  
14 reservoirs in states lying upstream from these states, and by channelizing the Missouri River  
15 from Sioux City, Iowa, to St. Louis, Missouri, at federal expense; and

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

19 **WHEREAS**, construction of facilities under the Pick-Sloan Project has, to date, resulted  
20 in \$16.7 billion of flood protection to downstream interests and has allowed these downstream  
21 interests to develop the original floodplain of the Missouri River for industrial, municipal, and  
22 agricultural uses; and

23 **WHEREAS**, under the Pick-Sloan Project, North Dakota has sacrificed over 550,000  
24 acres of land, which has meant the permanent loss of 2,641 jobs, \$45 million of annual  
25 personal income, and \$131 million of annual gross business volume; and

1           **WHEREAS**, the United States Army Corps of Engineers is now in the process of  
2 revising its master manual for the operation of the entire Pick-Sloan Project in future years; and

3           **WHEREAS**, the construction of the Pick-Sloan Project has divided the Missouri River in  
4 North Dakota into four distinct regions, namely, the Missouri River reach above Williston, Lake  
5 Sakakawea, the Missouri River reach from Garrison Dam to the headwaters of Lake Oahe, and  
6 Lake Oahe; and

7           **WHEREAS**, as the recreation industry on the Missouri River mainstem in North Dakota,  
8 which has developed into a \$70 million per year industry, suffered severely when the United  
9 States Army Corps of Engineers allowed lake levels to drop drastically during the drought of the  
10 late 1980s and the early 1990s; and

11           **WHEREAS**, the riverbanks in the Garrison Dam to Oahe Reservoir reach consist of  
12 ancient floodplain deposits that have been and will be severely eroded with great loss of  
13 valuable land whenever high waterflows are released from Garrison Dam; and

14           **WHEREAS**, the irrigators, fishermen, boaters, industrial and municipal water intakes,  
15 dredged channels, and marinas have all utilized the moderate summer river levels of the  
16 Garrison to Oahe reach both before and after the construction of the Garrison Dam; and

17           **WHEREAS**, the United States Army Corps of Engineers is also proposing very low  
18 water releases during the summer to allow endangered shore birds to nest, which will seriously  
19 affect many irrigators, recreation users, water intakes, dredged channels, and marinas;

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

22           That the Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly requests the United States Army Corps of  
23 Engineers to respect the large sacrifice North Dakota has made in order that the Pick-Sloan  
24 Project could be built; and

25           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the United States Army Corps of Engineers, in its  
26 new master manual, provide for conservation of water to enhance recreation, power generation,  
27 and the total economic benefits of the Pick-Sloan Project; and

28           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the United States Army Corps of Engineers, in its  
29 master manual, delay any unnecessary high water releases on the free-flowing reaches of the  
30 Missouri River, which cause the unnecessary loss of valuable land and an increase in flood  
31 damage, until such time when the riverbanks are protected; and

1           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the United States Army Corps of Engineers more  
2 evenly balance the needs of endangered species in the Upper Missouri River Basin with the  
3 requirements for water supply, the reduction of bank erosion, recreation, and flood control in the  
4 free-flowing stretches of the Missouri River; and

5           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Governor, members of the North Dakota  
6 Congressional Delegation, the State Engineer and staff, Director of the Game and Fish  
7 Department and staff, and many others be commended for their efforts to date and be urged to  
8 continue to work diligently at the local and national levels to influence the United States Army  
9 Corps of Engineers to adopt a master manual for the future operation of the Missouri River that  
10 is acceptable to all areas and interests on the Missouri River in North Dakota; and

11           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this  
12 resolution to the Division Commander of the Missouri River Division of the United States Army  
13 Corps of Engineers in order to be part of the public record for the Missouri River Master Manual  
14 Draft Environmental Impact Statement; the Secretary of the Army; the Secretary of the Interior;  
15 the District Engineer, Omaha District, United States Army Corps of Engineers; the Governor;  
16 each member of the State Water Commission; and each member of the North Dakota, South  
17 Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana Congressional Delegations.