

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3021

Introduced by

Representatives Kasper, B. Thoreson, Wald

Senators Espegard, Fischer, Robinson

1 A concurrent resolution expressing appreciation for passage of the Dakota Water Resources
2 Act and urging Congress to fully fund the federal share of the water projects in that Act.

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

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

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

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

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

18 **WHEREAS**, primary sources of water for many communities across North Dakota are
19 unsafe and of poor quality and a safe, reliable supply of water is necessary to preserve and
20 improve the quality of life in rural North Dakota, and projects such as the Southwest Water
21 Pipeline Project, the Northwest Area Water Supply Project, and other systems now being
22 developed are needed to meet water supply needs; and

23 **WHEREAS**, failure to provide long-term water supply and management across North
24 Dakota will jeopardize future economic opportunities dependent on water, including industry,

1 agricultural processing, manufacturing, municipal growth, recreation, and fish and wildlife, and
2 that failure will adversely affect the entire state; and

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

7 **WHEREAS**, the Dakota Water Resources Act proposes an objective analysis of the
8 best ways to meet those needs and authorizes federal funding to implement the solution; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the Dakota Water Resources Act provides immediate funding authority for
10 the Native American and rural areas of the state through the existing municipal, rural, and
11 industrial grant program; and

12 **WHEREAS**, under the Dakota Water Resources Act, the state of North Dakota will
13 provide approximately \$345 million in the form of cost share or repayment as part of the
14 \$630 million requested authorization, including \$200 million for delivery of water to the Red
15 River Valley, \$70 million for Red River Valley services, \$75 million for the 25 percent cost share
16 of the municipal, rural, and industrial grant program, as well as operation and maintenance
17 expenses for delivery of water to the Red River Valley;

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

20 That the Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly expresses appreciation for passage of the
21 Dakota Water Resources Act and urges the Congress of the United States to fully fund the
22 federal share of the water projects in that Act; and

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