

Fifty-seventh
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 **WHEREAS**, failure to provide long-term water supply and management across North
25 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 be
13 required to provide cost share or repayment and operation and maintenance expenses for
14 delivery of water to the Red River Valley;

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

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

20 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this
21 resolution to the Governor, the Secretary of the Interior, the chairman of the Three Affiliated
22 Tribes, the chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, and each member of the North Dakota
23 Congressional Delegation.