

Fifty-eighth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

Introduced by

Representative Boucher

1 A concurrent resolution strongly encouraging the Governor, Attorney General, State Water
2 Commission, and state agencies to continue aggressive action against individuals,
3 organizations, and entities interfering with the development and progress of state water
4 projects, including the Northwest Area Water Supply Project, the Southwest Pipeline Project,
5 Devils Lake flooding, delivery of water to eastern North Dakota, development of water
6 resources for irrigation purposes, and development of projects to control flooding, and urging
7 the Environmental Protection Agency to relax the recently promulgated rule lowering the
8 allowable level of arsenic in drinking water for affected cities in North Dakota.

9 **WHEREAS**, areas of the arid west-central region of North Dakota do not enjoy safe
10 drinking water and do not have sufficient quantities of water to ensure a dependable, long-term
11 supply of water which areas to the south currently enjoy; and

12 **WHEREAS**, many cities and rural areas in the Northwest Area Water Supply Project
13 have domestic water supplies of less than desirable quality; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the Northwest Area Water Supply Project will pump Missouri River water
15 from Lake Sakakawea as far north as Sherwood, as far east as Bottineau, and as far west as
16 Divide County and will supply water to the city of Minot; and

17 **WHEREAS**, using Missouri River water to supply the Northwest Area Water Supply
18 Project will be advantageous in that the residents of North Dakota, including the far west, it will
19 receive a clean and abundant supply of water providing a more inviting home for potential
20 businesses and industries which will strengthen local economies and result in more and better
21 jobs for North Dakotans; and

22 **WHEREAS**, a safe, dependable supply of water is critical to the economic viability of
23 the state and future economic development; and

24 **WHEREAS**, individuals, organizations, and entities have opposed North Dakota water
25 projects for political rather than scientific reasons; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the Environmental Protection Agency has recently promulgated rules
2 reducing the allowable level of arsenic in drinking water from 50 parts per billion to 10 parts per
3 billion; and

4 **WHEREAS**, several cities in North Dakota are being challenged to meet the stricter
5 drinking water standard for arsenic; and

6 **WHEREAS**, as many as 30 public water systems in North Dakota which currently
7 comply with drinking water standards may find it extremely difficult to comply with the new
8 drinking water standard for arsenic in the short timeframe before the rules take effect;

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

11 That the Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly strongly encourages the Governor, Attorney
12 General, State Water Commission, and state agencies to continue aggressive action against
13 individuals, organizations, and entities interfering with the development and progress of state
14 water projects, including the Northwest Area Water Supply Project, the Southwest Pipeline
15 Project, Devils Lake flooding, delivery of water to eastern North Dakota, development of water
16 resources for irrigation purposes, and development of projects to control flooding, and urging
17 the Environmental Protection Agency to relax the recently promulgated rule lowering the
18 allowable level of arsenic in drinking water for affected cities in North Dakota; and

19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this
20 resolution to the Governor, Attorney General, State Engineer, each member of the State Water
21 Commission, the chief of the Environmental Health Section of the State Department of Health,
22 the director of the Division of Municipal Facilities of the Environmental Health Section of the
23 State Department of Health, the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the
24 regional administrator for Region VIII of the Environmental Protection Agency, and to each
25 member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.