

**Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 7, 2003**

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3039
(Representative Boucher)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

That the Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly strongly encourages the Governor, Attorney General, State Water Commission, and state agencies to continue aggressive action against individuals, organizations, and entities interfering with the development and progress of state water projects, including the Northwest Area Water Supply Project, the Southwest Pipeline Project, Devils Lake flooding, delivery of water to eastern North Dakota, development of water resources for irrigation purposes, and development of projects to control flooding, and urging the Environmental Protection

Agency to relax the recently promulgated rule lowering the allowable level of arsenic in drinking water for affected cities in North Dakota; and

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

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2003,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State