

Fifty-eighth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

Introduced by

Representatives Warner, N. Johnson, Martinson

Senators Fischer, Lyson, Taylor

1 A concurrent resolution urging the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Army,  
2 and the United States Army Corps of Engineers to adopt and implement an updated Missouri  
3 River Master Water Control Manual that gives fair consideration to the substantial recreation  
4 values present on Lake Sakakawea, Lake Oahe, and the Missouri River in North Dakota.

5 **WHEREAS**, potential for economic growth and long-term stability in western North  
6 Dakota rests to an increasing degree on the recreational usability of and tourist visitations to  
7 Lake Sakakawea, Lake Oahe, and the Missouri River in North Dakota; and

8 **WHEREAS**, visitations to Lake Sakakawea, Lake Oahe, and the Missouri River in North  
9 Dakota are forecast to increase dramatically due to the bicentennial celebration of the  
10 exploration of the Missouri River by Lewis and Clark; and

11 **WHEREAS**, after 50 years since the closing of the Garrison Dam the federal  
12 government generally and the United States Army Corps of Engineers specifically have failed  
13 to adequately develop the recreation potential that exists in Lake Sakakawea, Lake Oahe, and  
14 the Missouri River in North Dakota; and

15 **WHEREAS**, failure of the federal government and the United States Army Corps of  
16 Engineers to facilitate development of recreation potentials will result in an unsatisfactory  
17 experience for the hundreds of thousands of North Dakota visitors expected during the Lewis  
18 and Clark Bicentennial; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the United States Army Corps of Engineers' delays in accounting for  
20 contemporary system uses and economic growth potential have severely hampered private and  
21 local government recreation development along Lake Sakakawea, Lake Oahe, and the  
22 Missouri River in North Dakota; and

23 **WHEREAS**, system management based on the current Missouri River Master Water  
24 Control Manual during the current and recent droughts has unnecessarily caused Lake  
25 Sakakawea and Lake Oahe water levels to fall to crisis levels; thus, compounding the negative

environment for state, tribal, and local governments and the private sector to develop the economic potential of one of North Dakota's most important natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, system management based on the current Missouri River Master Water Control Manual effectively gives unfair, higher priority to downstream business interests at the expense of upstream business, recreation, and environmental interests; and

**WHEREAS**, any proposed change to the current Missouri River Master Water Control Manual included in the United States Army Corps of Engineers' revised draft environment impact statement would be an improvement for endangered species in the Missouri River System, specifically the pallid sturgeon, least tern, and piping plover; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Army Corps of Engineers has delayed updating its Missouri River Master Water Control Manual even though the mandatory deadline for such an update has long passed;

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

That the Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly urges the President to direct the United States Army Corps of Engineers to complete and release a final, updated Missouri River Master Water Control Manual as its highest priority and to commit sufficient funds and other resources to fully develop the recreation potentials of the Missouri River System in North Dakota; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the Division Commander of the Northwestern Division of the United States Army Corps of Engineers; the Secretary of the Army; the Secretary of the Interior; the District Engineer, Omaha District, United States Army Corps of Engineers; the Governor; each member of the State Water Commission; and each member of the North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana Congressional Delegations.