

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3019

Introduced by

Representatives Froelich, Brandenburg, Kerzman, Kretschmar

Senators Erbele, Krauter

1 A concurrent resolution urging the United States Army Corps of Engineers to retain sufficient
2 water in the upper portion of Lake Oahe to ensure a stable water supply for the residents of the
3 Standing Rock Indian Reservation and surrounding communities and urging the Governor and
4 the Attorney General to take appropriate action to ensure federal officials retain sufficient water
5 in the upper portion of Lake Oahe to protect the health and well-being of the citizens of the
6 area.

7 **WHEREAS**, the Pick-Sloan Project, as authorized in the Flood Control Act of 1944, as
8 amended, provides major flood control benefits, recreational benefits, water supply benefits,
9 hydropower benefits, and navigational benefits for the downstream states of Iowa, Nebraska,
10 Missouri, and Kansas through construction of large reservoirs in states lying upstream from
11 these states; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the Pick-Sloan Project reservoirs have been in place for many years, thus
13 providing downstream states in the Missouri River Basin all the benefits promised in the
14 Pick-Sloan Project; and

15 **WHEREAS**, construction of facilities under the Pick-Sloan Project has, to date, resulted
16 in billions of dollars in flood protection to downstream interests and has allowed these
17 downstream interests to develop the original flood plain of the Missouri River for industrial,
18 municipal, and agricultural uses; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the Congress of the United States has directed the United States Army
20 Corps of Engineers to build, operate, and maintain all the features of the Pick-Sloan Project;
21 and

22 **WHEREAS**, due to unprecedented drought in the upper Missouri River Basin, the upper
23 basin reservoirs, including Lake Oahe, are at historically low levels; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the low level of Lake Oahe has made it difficult and expensive for residents
25 of the Standing Rock Indian Reservation and surrounding communities to access the reservoir

1 for drinking water and other domestic, recreational, and agricultural purposes, thus endangering
2 their health and well-being;

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

5 That the Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly urges the United States Army Corps of
6 Engineers to retain sufficient water in the upper portion of Lake Oahe to ensure a stable water
7 supply for the residents of the Standing Rock Indian Reservation and surrounding communities
8 and urges the Governor and the Attorney General to take appropriate action to ensure federal
9 officials retain sufficient water in the upper portion of Lake Oahe to protect the health and
10 well-being of the citizens of the area; and

11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this
12 resolution to the Governor; the Attorney General; the District Engineer, Omaha District, United
13 States Army Corps of Engineers; the Division Commander of the Northwestern Division of the
14 United States Army Corps of Engineers; the Secretary of the Army; the Secretary of the Interior;
15 and each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.