

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3044

Introduced by

Representatives Berg, Boucher

Senators Stenehjem, O'Connell

1 A concurrent resolution directing the Legislative Council to study how the state might pursue
2 additional uses of Lake Sakakawea and Missouri River waters for such beneficial purposes as
3 domestic and industrial uses, recreation, fish and wildlife, and irrigation, and how the state, to
4 enhance its use of the lake and river, might promote congressional review of the 1944 Flood
5 Control Act and a reexamination by the Corps of Engineers of the way in which it manages the
6 Missouri River system.

7 **WHEREAS**, a significant natural resource issue for our state, as well as the nation, is
8 management of the Missouri River and Lake Sakakawea; and

9 **WHEREAS**, since enactment of the 1944 Flood Control Act, which governs Missouri
10 River management, numerous economic, environmental, and social changes have occurred in
11 the Missouri River Basin; and

12 **WHEREAS**, for many years state officials have diligently worked to encourage the
13 Corps of Engineers to manage the Missouri River system equitably and consistently with
14 contemporary circumstances; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the state recently obtained a court order requiring that the Corps issue a
16 new Master Manual, the document by which it operates the Missouri River system; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the new Master Manual is an improvement and contains provisions more
18 reflective of contemporary needs and more protective of Upper Basin interest; and

19 **WHEREAS**, despite these improvements, the Corps' management of the Missouri River
20 system remains outdated and restricts the ability of the state and its citizens to use Lake
21 Sakakawea and Missouri River waters creatively, judiciously, and consistently with
22 contemporary needs and opportunities;

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

1 That the Legislative Council study how the state might pursue additional uses of Lake
2 Sakakawea and Missouri River waters for such beneficial purposes as domestic and industrial
3 uses, recreation, fish and wildlife, and irrigation, and how the state, to enhance its use of the
4 lake and river, might promote congressional review of the 1944 Flood Control Act and a
5 reexamination by the Corps of Engineers of the way in which it manages the Missouri River
6 system; and

7 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Council report its findings and
8 recommendations, together with any legislation required to implement the recommendations, to
9 the Sixty-first Legislative Assembly.