

Sixtieth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

Introduced by

Senators Lyson, Fischer, Krebsbach

Representatives Charging, Drovdal, Sukut

1 A concurrent resolution urging Congress to direct the United States Army Corps of Engineers to
2 address and rectify the problems caused by the accumulation of sediment in the Missouri River
3 main stem reservoirs.

4 **WHEREAS**, the Fort Peck Dam, Garrison Dam, Oahe Dam, Big Bend Dam, Fort
5 Randall Dam, and Gavins Point Dam and their associated reservoirs were improved or
6 constructed under the Flood Control Act of 1944; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the Missouri River dams were constructed to provide numerous benefits,
8 including flood control, hydropower generation, irrigation and domestic water supply, recreation,
9 and fish and wildlife, with those benefits averaging over \$1 billion per year; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the United States Army Corps of Engineers' 2007 annual operating plan
11 summary of engineering data shows a total annual sediment inflow into the reservoirs of
12 92,500 acre-feet per year; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the accumulation of sediment in the reservoirs since the reservoirs became
14 operational has resulted in the loss of over 4,500,000 acre-feet of storage, which is the
15 equivalent of 1,000 square miles of storage 7.5 feet deep; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the accumulation of sediment in the reservoirs has contributed to the
17 occurrence and spread of noxious weeds; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the benefits created by the Missouri River dams accrue to all of the United
19 States of America; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the Missouri River and its dams are a national resource; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the federal agency assigned
22 the task of operating and maintaining the dams, does not specifically address sediment
23 management in its annual operation and maintenance plan; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the ability of these dams to accumulate and store water for release during
2 times of drought is essential to preservation of water-based benefits over the entire system,
3 from the Fort Peck Dam to the mouth of the Missouri River near St. Louis, Missouri; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the extension of the life of and benefits provided by the Missouri River
5 dams and reservoirs is of major importance to the United States;

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

8 That the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to direct
9 the United States Army Corps of Engineers to address and rectify problems caused by the
10 accumulation of sediment in the Missouri River main stem reservoirs; and

11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this
12 resolution to the President of the United States; the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United
13 States House of Representatives; the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader of the United
14 States Senate; the Secretary of the Interior; the District Engineer, Omaha District; United States
15 Army Corps of Engineers; the Division Commander of the Northwestern Division of the United
16 States Army Corps of Engineers; the Secretary of the Army; the Governors of the states of
17 Montana, South Dakota, and Nebraska; and to each member of the North Dakota
18 Congressional Delegation.