

**Sixtieth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota  
In Regular Session Commencing Wednesday, January 3, 2007**

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4016  
(Senators Lyson, Fischer, Krebsbach)  
(Representatives Charging, Drovdal, Sukut)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the President of the United States; the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives; the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader of the United States Senate; the Secretary of the Interior; the District Engineer, Omaha District; United States Army Corps of Engineers;

the Division Commander of the Northwestern Division of the United States Army Corps of Engineers; the Secretary of the Army; the Governors of the states of Montana, South Dakota, and Nebraska; and to each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

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Secretary of the Senate

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Chief Clerk of the House

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2007,  
at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State