

**Fifty-fifth Legislative Assembly, State of North Dakota, begun in the Capitol in the City of Bismarck, on Monday, the sixth day of January, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven**

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4057**

(Senators G. Nelson, Mathern)

(Representatives Dorso, Boucher)

(Approved by the Delayed Bills Committee)

A concurrent resolution urging Congress to complete the Garrison Diversion project, to provide water for eastern North Dakota, and to meet the other water needs of the state.

**WHEREAS**, North Dakota lost more than 500,000 acres of valuable river bottomlands as a result of construction of the Missouri River reservoirs under the federal Flood Control Act of 1944, causing an annual loss of millions of dollars in economic gross product and an additional annual loss in personal income as well as other serious impacts to individuals, political subdivisions, and North Dakota's Indian Nations; and

**WHEREAS**, operation of the Pick-Sloan Missouri River dams has caused extensive damage and erosion to the remaining river banks and sediment buildup in areas of the upper reaches of the Oahe and Garrison reservoirs; and

**WHEREAS**, North Dakota was assured by Congress in the Flood Control Act of 1944 that the loss of this valuable land and economic return would be offset by completion of the Garrison Diversion Unit; and

**WHEREAS**, project benefits to date have not fully realized the promise of Garrison diversion; and

**WHEREAS**, construction of Garrison diversion by the federal government has been delayed numerous times with construction costs increasing and the remaining benefits deferred with each delay; and

**WHEREAS**, the Red River Basin needs a dependable supply of water for the cities of Fargo and Grand Forks, smaller communities, rural water systems, industry, agricultural processing, manufacturing, and other purposes, including minimum flows, and to protect and enhance the economic stability and quality of life for the growing population of the Red River Basin; and

**WHEREAS**, North Dakota has tremendous potential to produce irrigated high-value nonsurplus crops, and a dependable water supply for the James River is necessary for the Oakes test area and to realize the incredible economic opportunity to produce onions, potatoes, vegetables, and other high-value crops under irrigation; and

**WHEREAS**, the short-term solution to Devils Lake flooding includes an emergency outlet, upper basin storage and infrastructure protection, and the long-term solution to Devils Lake water management includes an inlet and outlet facility, upper basin storage, and infrastructure protection as parts of a stabilization plan to protect against periods of flooding and drought; and

**WHEREAS**, communities and rural water systems across North Dakota need a clean dependable water supply to preserve the quality of life in rural North Dakota; with such supplies being provided by projects such as the Southwest Pipeline Project and the Northwest Area Water Supply as well as other systems now being developed to meet water supply needs; and

**WHEREAS**, Missouri River water, delivered to eastern North Dakota via the Sheyenne River, provides the best practical solution to bring a dependable and adequate water supply to satisfy the growing water needs of the Red River Basin, the James River, Devils Lake, and other areas for the long-term future; and

**WHEREAS**, most North Dakotans will benefit from ensuring an adequate water supply to areas of need; and

**WHEREAS**, failure to provide long-term water supply and management for the Red River Basin, the James River, Devils Lake, and other areas will jeopardize future economic opportunities dependent on water, including industry, agricultural processing, manufacturing, municipal growth, recreation and fish and wildlife, and will adversely affect the entire state of North Dakota;

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

That construction and completion of a federally funded Garrison Diversion is a critical priority for water supply, management, and development in the State of North Dakota; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the State of North Dakota is prepared to assume responsibility for planning, constructing, operating, and maintaining the Garrison principal water supply facilities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that establishment of an economic recovery water fund would advance municipal, rural, agriculture, industry, tourism, recreation, wildlife, aesthetics, and other water-related economic development projects; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Assembly urges the Governor, the members of the Congressional delegation, and legislative leaders to work together in ongoing negotiations with other interested parties to reach consensus on legislation to complete the Garrison Diversion project and thereby achieve the goal of long-term future water supply for the Red River Basin; the James River; Devils Lake; Northwest Area Water Supply; the Southwest Pipeline; community water supply systems; rural water systems; Indian municipal, rural, and industrial water supply systems, and other areas, and to establish or enhance resources, wildlife, and water funds to assist in the development and completion of the Garrison Diversion Unit; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be forwarded by the Secretary of State to the Governor, each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation, and the United States Secretary of the Interior.

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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 \_\_\_\_\_, 1997,  
at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

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Secretary of State