

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3036

Introduced by

Representatives Kretschmar, Drovdal, Wikenheiser

Senator Erbele

1 A concurrent resolution urging Congress to enact legislation for the economic recovery of North
2 Dakota's Missouri River corridor.

3 **WHEREAS**, the 11 counties comprising the Missouri River corridor in North Dakota lost
4 more than 500,000 acres of valuable river bottomlands as a result of construction of the
5 Missouri River reservoirs under the federal Flood Control Act of 1944, causing an annual loss of
6 millions of dollars in economic gross product and an additional annual loss in personal income
7 as well as other serious impacts to individuals, political subdivisions, and North Dakota's Indian
8 Nations; and

9 **WHEREAS**, operation of the Pick-Sloan Missouri River dams has provided great
10 benefits to the downstream states but relatively few benefits to the 11 counties directly affected
11 by the projects; and

12 **WHEREAS**, counties affected by the Pick-Sloan Missouri River dams have been
13 working diligently to bring about some economic recovery to help alleviate the losses caused by
14 the project during the last 50 years; and

15 **WHEREAS**, it has been determined that the water and land resources of the 11
16 counties are key to the economic growth of these counties; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the North Dakota Water User's Association supports a proposed North
18 Dakota Missouri River Corridor Economy Recovery Act under which the federal government
19 would appropriate funds to the Bank of North Dakota over a 10-year period, to be used to
20 rebuild infrastructure lost over the 50-year period through inundation caused by the main stem
21 Missouri River dams; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the North Dakota Irrigation Caucus is in the early stages of revising a
23 strategic plan, Irrigation 2020, to develop, strengthen, and expand irrigation in North Dakota;
24 and

1 **WHEREAS**, if the federal government appropriated \$600 million dollars to the Bank of
2 North Dakota for a period of 10 years, the Bank could invest this money and use the interest to
3 help the corridor counties to rebuild their infrastructure that was destroyed by construction of
4 the Pick-Sloan Missouri River dams;

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

7 That the Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to
8 enact legislation for the economic recovery of North Dakota's Missouri River corridor; and

9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this
10 resolution to the Governor, the United States Secretary of the Interior, and each member of the
11 North Dakota Congressional Delegation.