

Fifty-eighth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

Introduced by

Representative Boucher

1 A concurrent resolution strongly encouraging the Governor, Attorney General, State Water  
2 Commission, and state agencies to continue aggressive action against individuals,  
3 organizations, and entities interfering with the development and progress of state water  
4 projects, including the Northwest Area Water Supply Project, the Southwest Pipeline Project,  
5 Devils Lake flooding, delivery of water to eastern North Dakota, development of water  
6 resources for irrigation purposes, and development of projects to control flooding, and urging  
7 the Environmental Protection Agency to relax the recently promulgated rule lowering the  
8 allowable level of arsenic in drinking water for affected cities in North Dakota.

9 **WHEREAS**, areas of the arid west-central region of North Dakota do not enjoy safe  
10 drinking water and do not have sufficient quantities of water to ensure a dependable, long-term  
11 supply of water which areas to the south currently enjoy; and

12 **WHEREAS**, many cities and rural areas in the Northwest Area Water Supply Project  
13 have domestic water supplies of less than desirable quality; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the Northwest Area Water Supply Project will pump Missouri River water  
15 from Lake Sakakawea as far north as Sherwood, as far east as Bottineau, and as far west as  
16 Divide County and will supply water to the city of Minot; and

17 **WHEREAS**, using Missouri River water to supply the Northwest Area Water Supply  
18 Project will be advantageous in that the residents of North Dakota, including the far west, it will  
19 receive a clean and abundant supply of water providing a more inviting home for potential  
20 businesses and industries which will strengthen local economies and result in more and better  
21 jobs for North Dakotans; and

22 **WHEREAS**, a safe, dependable supply of water is critical to the economic viability of  
23 the state and future economic development; and

24 **WHEREAS**, individuals, organizations, and entities have opposed North Dakota water  
25 projects for political rather than scientific reasons; and

1           **WHEREAS**, the Environmental Protection Agency has recently promulgated rules  
2 reducing the allowable level of arsenic in drinking water from 50 parts per billion to 10 parts per  
3 billion; and

4           **WHEREAS**, several cities in North Dakota are being challenged to meet the stricter  
5 drinking water standard for arsenic; and

6           **WHEREAS**, as many as 30 public water systems in North Dakota which currently  
7 comply with drinking water standards may find it extremely difficult to comply with the new  
8 drinking water standard for arsenic in the short timeframe before the rules take effect;

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

11           That the Fifty-ninth Legislative Assembly strongly encourages the Governor, Attorney  
12 General, State Water Commission, and state agencies to continue aggressive action against  
13 individuals, organizations, and entities interfering with the development and progress of state  
14 water projects, including the Northwest Area Water Supply Project, the Southwest Pipeline  
15 Project, Devils Lake flooding, delivery of water to eastern North Dakota, development of water  
16 resources for irrigation purposes, and development of projects to control flooding, and urging  
17 the Environmental Protection Agency to relax the recently promulgated rule lowering the  
18 allowable level of arsenic in drinking water for affected cities in North Dakota; and

19           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this  
20 resolution to the Governor, Attorney General, State Engineer, each member of the State Water  
21 Commission, the chief of the Environmental Health Section of the State Department of Health,  
22 the director of the Division of Municipal Facilities of the Environmental Health Section of the  
23 State Department of Health, the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the  
24 regional administrator for Region VIII of the Environmental Protection Agency, and to each  
25 member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.