

MICROFILM DIVIDER

OMB/RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

SFN 2053 (2/85) 5M



ROLL NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

3041

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La Costa Rickford
Operator's Signature

10/16/03
Date

2003 HOUSE AGRICULTURE

HCR 3041

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Richard Costa
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10/16/03
Date

2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HCR 3040 & HCR 3041

House Agriculture Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date February 14, 2003

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	X		22
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Edward D. Ellison</i>			

Minutes:

REP. POLLERT, VICE-CHAIR Called the hearing to order. He allowed testimony for HCR 3040 and HCR 3041 as they are similar.

REP. JOHN WARNER, DIST. 4 Introduced the resolution. He deferred testimony to other people testifying.

BILL BUTCHER, REPRESENTING FRIENDS OF LAKE SAKAKAWEA, Testified in support of the resolution. The Friends of Lake Sakakawea, has been in existence for several years now. We represent a considerable number of people, businesses and organizations. We have Chambers of Commerce, businesses, fishing groups, resorts, sailing groups, our membership ranks in the one hundreds. We feel these two concurrent resolutions are very important. It is most important for the Bush administration to understand that they need to exercise their oversight responsibilities with the Corps of Engineers and make sure these representations and promises are met.

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House Agriculture Committee

Bill/Resolution Number HCR 3040, HCR3041

Hearing Date February 14, 2003

JILL DENNING GACKLE, GENERAL MANAGER OF BHG INC. Testified in support of the resolutions 3040 and 3041. See attached written testimony. She also submitted charts relating to the Garrison Reservoir Elevation Study. See attached copies.

REP. ONSTAD Related to the deadlines in her testimony, how past due are they on the original deadline, are there any indications where they are at?

JILL DENNING GACKLE There might be some people who can answer this a little bit better. It has been at least thirteen years, that we have been waiting for the master manual. It is a now a political fight between the Missouri and the upper basin states. All we really know, is that nothing has been released. Anything they could release would be better than what we are having right now.

TERRY FLECK, SALES MANAGER AND CO-OWNER OF PRO-RADIO ALSO A FREE LANCE PUBLIC SPEAKER AND WORK FOR THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEMS CORPORATE DEVELOPMENT CONTINUED EDUCATION DIVISION Testified in support of the resolution. Stated he was here to represent the cabin site owners. He stated he lives in Bismarck but owns a cabin, which used to be on the lake. The lake has moved so far away that he can hardly see it from where it is now. He stated they were meeting with the Corps of engineers, and his request today was support from the committee. He said everyone needs to know where Lake Sakakawea is and what it faces.

REP. ONSTAD Asked for enlightenment working with the corps, and some of the concerns of the cabin owners.

TERRY FLECK I think we need to understand that in 2004, 2005, and 2006, there are an awful lot of people coming to North Dakota to help us celebrate the Lewis & Clark Expedition,

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House Agriculture Committee
Bill/Resolution Number HCR 3040
Hearing Date February 14, 2003

we have two major events in our state, and our concern is, what they are going to see, which is a sea of AKOSHA. That will be our responsibility to take care of it, we hope we will get permission to do a control burn, which is not an easy thing to get. We work hard and long hours to keep up that area. We will be stuck at Van Hook, we built a beautiful ramp last year, a break water and it is a gorgeous area, but that ramp is going to be a long way from the water. We will use temporary ramps. The Lake Sakakawea Derby has been cancelled, a tournament that has been held for years and years. They can't hold it this year, because you can't put that many boats in, on a temporary sandbar, with grates and pieces of cement. We are not looking to challenge the Corps, we want the Corps to embrace who we are and what we are faced with, we need their help. If this continues with the drought scenerio, people can easily see very much what Lewis and Clark saw, and that would be just a river. That is what easily could be left if we don't protect that resource.

TOM ABRAHAMSON, ON BEHALF OF THE NORTH DAKOTA SPORTEFISHING

CONGRESS Testified in support of the resolutions. See attached written testimony.

REP. ONSTAD When you talk about the lake levels, is there a certain level we have to be at before any water can even get here. is there a point at 18 or 25?

TODD SANDO, ENGINEER Answered the question, he stated he was working on the Missouri River since the last drought, and studied the master manual since 1989, the lake is full March 1, at 18 37 1/2, that is the flood control zone, that is when the reservoir captures run off from the plains and the mountain snow pack, then the lake usually comes up within the mid 40's. The people like the lake at different levels, but we like to see the lake full. 18 25 us pretty critical. In June, July, August and early September, that is when it can be really critical if we are

Richard Costa
Operator's Signature

10/6/03
Date

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House Agriculture Committee

Bill/Resolution Number HCR 3040

Hearing Date February 14, 2003

at 18.25, you can see major fish die out at that level. We will see 18.19 by next month, we are probably at peak lake level for the year. In the winter time when you have ice, you need that much more.

LEE KLAPPRODT, BISMARCK Testified in support of the resolutions. Stated he was involved in salmon fishery and developing that on Lake Sakakawea over the last twenty years. He stated he is very concerned about the circumstances we are faced with this year, and equally concerned about the Corps Master Manual and their lack of action in approving a revised Master Manual which represents the contemporary needs of the people who live throughout the entire Missouri River Basin. I hope the legislature sees fit to send both of these resolutions to the federal administration and the US Corps of Engineers. It is important that we demonstrate that there is statewide support for improved management, for a new master manual and corps investment in the recreational facilities that are going to be so critical during the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial. We will probably see hundreds of thousands of people coming through North Dakota during the Bicentennial and it would be just a shame if those people don't have reasonable facilities to use while they are here, whether they are campers or staying in motels. I think the Corps, being this is their reservoir and they manage all of the land around the reservoir, they have a huge responsibility making sure that both Lakes Sakakawea and Lake Oahe and the Missouri River, are dressed to show for all of these visitors.

TODD SANDO, ASSISTANT STATE ENGINEER Testified in support of the resolutions.

Gave a background on the Master Manual. See attached testimony.

REP. POLLERT Asked if there was any effect to the southwest pipeline?

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House Agriculture Committee

Bill/Resolution Number HCR 3040

Hearing Date February 14, 2003

TODD SANDO Yes, we share an intake with the coal gasification plant. That intake level is below the permanent pole, which is actually 17.75. The way the 1960 Master Manual was read, they could fluctuate the reservoir from 18.50 down to 17.75. They could fluctuate the reservoir up to 80 feet.

REP. POLLERT Asked if Mr. Sando had a position on HCR 3041.

TODD SANDO Stated he didn't have a position on that resolution.

TERRY FLECK Commented again, stating he would like to invite committee members and any of their constituents to come to the meeting on Tuesday regarding the lake.

BILL BUTCHER Commented again stating HCR 3041 is similiar to HCR 3040 except it is addressed to the Corps of Engineers and has to do with lake development recreation. 3041 addresses representations which were made by the Corps of Engineers to Senator Dorgan and to the people of North Dakota, that they will be supportive and do certain things that are itemized in HCR 3041 to support and provide for the Lewis & Clark Centennial celebration. Our concern is those matters are not being addressed, and those promises are not being fulfilled. We are going to have hundreds of thousands of people here in the next three or four years who will have certain expectations and we want those expectations to be met.

REP. ONSTAD As the lake level drops, basically, for every foot that lake drops, how much loss is that to the state of North Dakota?

BILL BUTCHER There are probably people here who can address that better than I. I have been sailing on that lake for 30 something years, and I can tell you, the figure 18.25 was mentioned, when it gets below that, businesses close.

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House Agriculture Committee
Bill/Resolution Number HCR 3040
Hearing Date February 14, 2003

TODD SANDO Came forward to answer Rep. Onstad's question, stating they are in the middle of several lawsuits on the Missouri River since they haven't been able to get the plan in place, so we are conducting economical analysis of the regional impacts and state impacts, it really doesn't properly address what the impacts are from Lake Sakakawea are. We are working through NDSU on an economic analysis to look at what the impacts are if the lake continues to drop. Right now the Corps, in their Master Manual says, that recreation is worth is about 85 million per year, to the nation's economy. When you start looking at regional impacts and see how that money turns over, it is even a much larger number.

BILL BUTCHER Returned to comment. I don't want to leave the impression that this whole economic impact is strictly to communities and businesses that are on the lake, this whole thing, the water level on Lake Sakakawea, it impacts the business communities in Bismarck, Minot and Williston, and Dickinson.

With no further testimony, the hearing was closed on both resolutions.

COMMITTEE ACTION ON HCR 3040

Committee members decided to amend the resolution on Page 2, Line 20, replace "Missouri River Division" with "northwest division".

REP. BOE Made a motion to adopt the amendment as suggested.

REP. KINGSBURY Second the motion. Motion carried by voice vote.

REP. MUELLER Made a motion for a **DO PASS AS AMENDED AND BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR.**

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House Agriculture Committee

Bill/Resolution Number HCR 3040

Hearing Date February 14, 2003

REP. KREIDT Second the motion. **MOTION CARRIED**

9 YES 0 NO 4 ABSENT

REP. POLLERT Was given the floor assignment.

COMMITTEE ACTION FOR HCR 3041

REP. BOEHNING Made a motion to amend the bill on Page 2, Line 9, strike out "Missouri River and insert "northwestern"

REP. KREIDT Second the motion. Motion carried by voice vote.

REP. KREIDT Made a motion for a **DO PASS AS AMENDED AND PLACE ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR**

REP. MUELLER Second the motion **MOTION CARRIED**

9 YES 0 NO 4 ABSENT

REP. POLLERT Was given the floor assignment.

HCR 3046

Date:
Roll Call Vote #:

2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO.

House AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number

Action Taken

Motion Made By

Seconded By

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
CHAIRMAN NICHOLAS					
VICE CHAIRMAN POLLERT					
REPRESENTATIVE BELTER					
REPRESENTATIVE BOEHNING					
REPRESENTATIVE KELSCH					
REPRESENTATIVE KINGSBURY					
REPRESENTATIVE KREIDT					
REPRESENTATIVE UGLEM					
REPRESENTATIVE WRANGHAM					
REPRESENTATIVE BOE					
REPRESENTATIVE FROELICH					
REPRESENTATIVE MUELLER					
REPRESENTATIVE ONSTAL					

Total (Yes)

No

Absent

Floor Assignment

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Date

HCIC 3041

Date:
Roll Call Vote #:

**2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO.**

House AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number

Action Taken

Motion Made By

Seconded By

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
CHAIRMAN NICHOLAS					
VICE CHAIRMAN POLLERT	✓				
REPRESENTATIVE BELTER					
REPRESENTATIVE BOEHNING	✓				
REPRESENTATIVE KELSCH					
REPRESENTATIVE KINGSBURY	✓				
REPRESENTATIVE KREIDT	✓				
REPRESENTATIVE UGLEM	✓				
REPRESENTATIVE WRANGHAM	✓				
REPRESENTATIVE BOE	✓				
REPRESENTATIVE FROELICH					
REPRESENTATIVE MUELLER	✓				
REPRESENTATIVE ONSTAD	✓				

Total (Yes)

No

Absent

Floor Assignment

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REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
February 17, 2003 3:51 p.m.

Module No: HR-30-2975
Carrier: Pollert
Insert LC: 38380.0101 Title: .0200

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HCR 3041: Agriculture Committee (Rep. Nicholas, Chairman) recommends
AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS**
(9 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 4 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HCR 3041 was placed on the
Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 2, line 9, replace "Missouri River" with "Northwestern"

Renumber accordingly

(2) DESK, (3) COMM

Page No. 1

HR-30-2975

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Salvatore Riccardi
Operator's Signature

10/6/03
Date

2003 SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES

HCR 3041

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La Costa Richard
Operator's Signature

10/16/03
Date

2003 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HCR 3041

Senate Natural Resources Committee

☐ Conference Committee

Hearing Date 3-20-03

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
1	X		45.4 - 46.0
		X	27.0 - 39.2
		X	43.3 - 45.6
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Janet James</i>			

Minutes:

Senator Thomas Fischer, Chairman of the Senate Natural Resources Committee opened the hearing on HCR 3041 urging the President of the United States, Secretary of the Army, and the United States Corps of Engineers to improve, rehabilitate, and repair visitor facilities, event sites, and other areas within their jurisdiction in North Dakota expected to experience significant increases in visitation as a result of the bicentennial commemoration of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

All member of the committee were present.

Representative John Warner (Tape 1, Side A, 45.4 - 46.0) of District 4 cosponsor of HCR 3041 presented the resolution stating the resolution comes with the recommendation from the Park and Recreation Department. Lake Sakakawea has been designated as a pilot lake in order to demonstrate the recreation potential of lakes in the Corp of Engineers system.

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10/6/03
Date

Page 2

Senate Natural Resources Committee

Bill/Resolution Number HCR 3041

Hearing Date 3-20-03

Bill Butcher (27.0) representing the Friends of Lake Sakakawea and the NFIB testified in support of HCR 3041 stating this resolution basically calls upon the Corp of Engineers to keep their promises to maintain and up grade the sites they have control over on Lake Sakakawea in connection to the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Celebration. He offered an amendment (See attached) suggested by the Parks & Recreation Department.

Lee Klapprodt, Bismarck, North Dakota testified in support of HCR 3041 stating it is critical for North Dakota to have facilities to favorably impress visitors to the state for the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial. The Corp of Engineers should do whatever they can to improve the facilities at the sites they have on Lake Sakakawea.

Tom Balzer, Manager of the Recreation Division of the ND Parks & Recreation Department testified in support of HCR 3041 (See attached testimony). He also stated he supports the amendment.

Senator Fischer closed the hearing on HCR 3041.

Tape 1, Side B, 43.3 - 45.6

Senator Thomas Fischer opened the discussion on HCR 3041.

Senator Joel Heitkamp made a motion to accept the amendment as presented by Bill Butcher.

Senator Stanley Lyson second the motion.

Roll call vote #1 was taken indicating 7 YEAS, 0 NAYS AND 0 ABSENT OR NOT VOTING.

Senator Heitkamp made a motion for a Do Pass as Amended.

Senator Michael Every second the motion.

Roll call vote # 2 was taken indicating 7 YEAS , 0 NAYS AND 0 ABSENT OR NOT VOTING.

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Senate Natural Resources Committee

Bill/Resolution Number HCR 3041

Hearing Date 3-20-03

Senator Lyson will carry HCR 3041.

Senator Flischer closed the discussion and action on HCR 3041.

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10/16/03
Date

38380.0201
Title.0300

Adopted by the Natural Resources
Committee

March 20, 2003

93
3-21-03

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED HOUSE
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3041

Page 1, line 25, after the semicolon insert "and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress enacted a Demonstration Lakes
Initiative of which Lake Sakakawea is designated a pilot lake;"

Page 2, after line 7, Insert:

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly urges
the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Army, and the United States
Army Corps of Engineers to continue to improve, rehabilitate, and repair sites and
facilities on Lake Sakakawea under the provisions of the Demonstration Lakes Initiative;
and"

Renumber accordingly

Page No. 1

38380.0201

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La Costa Rickford
Operator's Signature

10/16/03
Date

Date: 3-20-03
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2003 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 3041

Senate Senate Natural Resources Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Accept Butcher Amendment

Motion Made By Hittner Seconded By Lynn

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Thomas Fischer	✓		Senator Michael A. Every	✓	
Senator Ben Tollefson	✓		Senator Joel C. Heitkamp	✓	
Senator Layton Freborg	✓				
Senator Stanley W. Lyson	✓				
Senator John T. Traynor	✓				

Total (Yes) 7 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

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Yolanda Richardson 10/6/03
Operator's Signature Date

Date: 3-20-03
Roll Call Vote #: 2

2003 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 3041

Senate Senate Natural Resources Committee

☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number _____

Action Taken Do Pass as Amended

Motion Made By Hunkley Seconded By Evoy

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Senator Thomas Fischer	✓		Senator Michael A. Every	✓	
Senator Ben Tollefson	✓		Senator Joel C. Heitkamp	✓	
Senator Layton Freborg	✓				
Senator Stanley W. Lyson	✓				
Senator John T. Traynor	✓				

Total (Yes) 7 No 0

Absent 0

Floor Assignment Lyson

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)
March 21, 2003 12:32 p.m.

Module No: SR-51-5416
Carrier: Lyson
Insert LC: 38380.0201 Title: .0300

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
HCR 3041, as engrossed: Natural Resources Committee (Sen. Fischer, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HCR 3041 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 25, after the semicolon insert "and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress enacted a Demonstration Lakes Initiative of which Lake Sakakawea is designated a pilot lake;"

Page 2, after line 7, insert:

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fifty-eighth Legislative Assembly urges the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Army, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers to continue to improve, rehabilitate, and repair sites and facilities on Lake Sakakawea under the provisions of the Demonstration Lakes Initiative; and"

Renumber accordingly

(2) DESK, (3) COMM

Page No. 1

SR-51-5416

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Salvatore Riccardi
Operator's Signature

10/16/03
Date

2003 TESTIMONY

HCR 3041

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Valerie Rickford
Operator's Signature

10/16/03
Date

Page 1 of HCR 3041 remains exactly the same. Page 2 should read as follows to reflect the amendment:

and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress enacted a Demonstration Lakes Initiative of which Lake Sakakawea is designated a pilot lake;

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

That the Fifty-eight Legislative Assembly urges the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Army, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers to make good on representations and promises made to improve, rehabilitate, and repair facilities, event sites, and other areas expected to experience significant increases in visitation as a result of the bicentennial commemoration of the Lewis and Clark Expedition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fifty-eight Legislative Assembly urges the President of the United States, the Secretary of the Army, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers to continue to improve, rehabilitate, and repair sites and facilities on Lake Sakakawea under the provisions of the Demonstration Lakes Initiative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the President of the United States; Division Commander of the Missouri River Division of the United States Army Corps of Engineers; the Secretary of the Army; the District Engineer, Omaha District, United States Army Corps of Engineers; the Governor; and each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

House Agriculture Committee
HCR 3040 and 3041
Feb. 14 9:40 a.m.

Testimony by Jill Denning Gackle

Good morning. Chairman Nicholas and Members of the Committee. I'm Jill Denning Gackle, general manager of BHG Inc., a group of 11 community newspapers in west central North Dakota. We have newspapers as far south as Hazen and Beulah and Washburn and as far north as Parshall and Velva.

My testimony this morning is primarily concerning HCR 3040, but as you listen to the impact that the lake has on our communities, I'm sure you'll realize that the same scenarios fit with the following resolution, HCR 3041.

HCR3040 urges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to update its Master Manual. This has been a 13-year ordeal of waiting, testifying, prodding and pleading. And in the meantime, North Dakota suffers. You have attached to my testimony some interesting charts.

Several years ago we began comparing the taxable sales of one lake community, Garrison, with the lake levels. As you can see from this chart and the following ones, the lake dictates our future - visitations at Fort Stevenson State Park, Marina revenue, winning weight of fish at the Governor's Cup and even the number of fishing licenses that are sold.

I'd like to focus in on the first chart - the one that keeps businesses around the lake open and the cash register ringing.

In 1999, North Dakota Game and Fish estimated that for every dollar spent to fish and hunt in North Dakota, 15 cents of that dollar is spent on fishing Lake Sakakawea, or more than \$85 million in 1999. We think \$85 million may just be a drop in the bucket so to speak when we talk to businesses that were impacted by the low water of the 1990s. Here's what a few of them had to say the last time we went through a drought coupled with unnecessary releases.

We opened doors in 1988, we were here for six years with no water. We changed from a marina to a restaurant. It was pretty tough. You might as well close up shop if you're only a marina and people can't get to your place.

Owner, Lund's Landing Resort

We had virtually five years of no income. If it would have been private enterprise, we would have been bankrupt. Next year could be the first year since taking it over in 1987 that we will break even. It took a while to get clientele back, we needed to make repairs, we lost at least half of our tenants. It was the first full year we had. When we bought into the business, I was too cocky. I thought it was too big of a lake to ever go dry. I was dead wrong. Now I'm gun shy. I'm afraid to plan on a good next year because I figure there's a 50% chance we'll be on dry ground.

Investor in Dock Owners Inc. -- own all the docks

John Costa
Operator's Signature

10/6/03
Date

I was a casualty of the Corps. The problem is we're not talking about recreation, it's tourism. It's an industry, it's not just people out having fun. Businesses like ours closed up and down the lake. Restaurants, clothing stores, grocery stores, one after another, after another. We were a family that lost everything we had financially. Look at the lake now -- it's gross mismanagement. The Corps pulled the plug last year and forgot to put it back in.

Owner that closed supper club in Garrison in 1990

In the 1980s we had 20 big boats in our bay. Ten years later we had three. The three salmon fishing charters are gone. Most of the boats have been sold. During the late 80s our marina was virtually out of business. We moved ramp five times and delivered gas. 1998, on the other hand, was phenomenal. The revenue was what it should have been eight years ago. We're just recovering from the bad years (in 1998).

Owner Indian Hills Resort

My parents owned the business until 1990 when they said to hell with it and went bankrupt. I bought it at the sheriff's sale. Business has increased 500 percent since then. But it could happen again. Absolutely. I was here the last time and it was ugly. The Tourism Business has such a trickle down affect, it touches everyone. It's a total crime to have the lake at the level it's at now. It's pretty scary where it could be by next spring (1998).

Owner, Watford City sporting goods store

Garrison and many of the towns where we have newspapers used to be farming communities. Many of our communities have grown into new shoes of tourist towns. We know how to court customers and make them glad to do business with us. But we need customers.

Without adoption of a Master Manual, we are floundering without a plan. It's like driving in Chicago without a map -- we find it pretty impossible. Any version or what they called a Preferred Alternative of the proposed Master Manual would be put us in a better situation than we are today. Please help us put pressure on the Corps of Engineers to release a Master Manual, something that will help us stabilize our economy and plan for our future.

Please help us put pressure on the Corps of Engineers to provide superb recreational facilities for Lewis and Clark travelers.

Please give HCR3040 and 3041 a "do pass." Thank you.

LaCosta Rickford
Operator's Signature

10/6/03
Date

**TESTIMONY - HCR 3041
SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MARCH 20, 2003 - 10:30AM
FORT LINCOLN ROOM**

Mr. Chairman and members of Senate Natural Resources Committee, my name is Tom Balzer, Recreation Division manager for ND Parks and Recreation Department. I appear in support of HCR 3041 to urge the Corps of Engineers to improve, repair and rehabilitate visitor facilities along the shores of Lake Sakakawea.

The purpose of this resolution focuses on the improvement of Corps facilities in preparation for the Lewis and Clark Anniversary. That is an appropriate focus and one that will benefit residents and visitors to the shoreline of Lake Sakakawea. Although the Corps of Engineers is one of 13 federal agencies focused on the Lewis and Clark Anniversary, little if any funding has come to Lake Sakakawea for recreation site improvements. It is the intent of this resolution will make a difference in the allocation of funding before the Bicentennial ends. Improvements to these facilities will better prepare North Dakota to host our own residents as well as the visitors during the Bicentennial.

Of equal if not greater importance to North Dakota is an amended section to this bill. That amendment addresses focus by the Corps of Engineers on the Demonstration Lakes Initiative. This program was created by Congress after a national team of federal, state and local recreation interests undertook a Recreation Lakes study focusing on the Corps of Engineers responsibility toward partnerships with local management entities. The program has significant long-term benefit to the state of North Dakota because it is a priority funding area within the Corps budgets. Currently Lake Sakakawea is designated as one of the National Pilot projects which gives us a head start on other states. The Riverdale office of the Corps of Engineers initiated and guided that application through the channels and succeeded with the designation.

The Demonstration Lakes program focuses on providing cost share funding to local entities that are managing lands for recreation along Corps projects. Most if not all local communities along Lake Sakakawea are engaged in management of Corps property. Four sites along the lake are under management by our Department. This funding initiative will enable local jurisdictions, state, tribal and the Corps to enhance recreation areas along the lake well into the future. An important component of this funding initiative is the presence of partnership or friends groups. The Friends of Lake Sakakawea fits that criteria and is one of the primary reasons the group was organized. It is important to note again, the Riverdale office assisted in creation of the Friends Group. Passage of this resolution would put the state in a greater position for funding in the Corps of Engineers budget process.

We urge a do pass as amended. I will be happy to answer any questions.

Tom Balzer
Operator's Signature

10/6/03
Date

Senate Natural Resources Committee
HCR 3040 and 3041
March 20, 10:30 a.m.

Testimony by Judith Iverson

Good morning. Chairman Fischer and Members of the Committee. My name is Judith Iverson. I'm the Executive Director of the Garrison Area Improvement Association in Garrison, North Dakota and I am also a co-owner of a steakhouse and lounge in Garrison.

My testimony this morning is primarily concerning HCR 3040, but as you listen to the impact that the lake has on our communities, I'm sure you'll realize that the same scenarios fit with the following resolution, HCR 3041.

HCR3040 urges the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to update its Master Manual. This has been a 13-year ordeal of waiting, testifying, prodding and pleading. And in the meantime, North Dakota suffers. You have attached to my testimony some interesting charts.

Several years ago we began comparing the taxable sales of one lake community, Garrison, with the lake levels. As you can see from this chart and the following ones, the lake has mirrored our past and dictates our future. Lake levels influence the visitations at Fort Stevenson State Park, winning weight of fish at the Governor's Cup Walleye Derby and even the number of fishing licenses that are sold.

I'd like to focus on the first chart -- the one that charts the Garrison taxable sales from 1978 to 2001. You will see twenty-three years of direct correlation.

In 1999, North Dakota Game and Fish estimated that for every dollar spent to fish and hunt in North Dakota, 15 cents of that dollar was spent on fishing Lake Sakakawea, or more than \$85 million in 1999. We think \$85 million may just be a drop in the bucket when we talk to businesses that were impacted by the low water of the 1990s. Here's what a few of them had to say the last time we went through a drought coupled with unnecessary releases.

We opened doors in 1988, we were here for six years with no water. We changed from a marina to a restaurant. It was pretty tough. You might as well close up shop if you're only a marina and people can't get to your place.

Owner, Lund's Landing Resort

We had virtually five years of no income. If it would have been private enterprise, we would have been bankrupt. Next year could be the first year since taking it over in 1987 that we will break even. It took a while to get clientele back, we needed to make repairs, we lost at least half of our tenants. It was the first full year we had. When we bought into the business, I was too cocky. I thought it was too big of a lake to ever go dry. I was dead wrong. Now I'm gun shy. I'm afraid to plan on a good next year because I figure there's a 50% chance we'll be on dry ground.

Investor in Dock Owners Inc. -- own all the docks

Yolanda Richardson
Operator's Signature

10/16/03
Date

I was a casualty of the Corps. The problem is we're not talking about recreation, it's tourism. It's an industry, it's not just people out having fun. Businesses like ours closed up and down the lake. Restaurants, clothing stores, grocery stores, one after another, after another. We were a family that lost everything we had financially. Look at the lake now - it's gross mismanagement. The Corps pulled the plug last year and forgot to put it back in.

Owner of a supper club that closed in Garrison in 1990

In the 1980s we had 20 big boats in our bay. Ten years later we had three. The three salmon fishing charters are gone. Most of the boats have been sold. During the late 80s our marina was virtually out of business. We moved ramp five times and delivered gas. 1998, on the other hand, was phenomenal. The revenue was what it should have been eight years ago. We're just recovering from the bad years (in 1998).

Owner, Indian Hills Resort

My parents owned the business until 1990 when they said to hell with it and went bankrupt. I bought it at the sheriff's sale. Business has increased 500 percent since then. But it could happen again. Absolutely. I was here the last time and it was ugly. The Tourism Business has such a trickle down affect, it touches everyone. It's a total crime to have the lake at the level it's at now. It's pretty scary where it could be by next spring (1998).

Owner, Watford City sporting goods store

Garrison and many of the towns surrounding Lake Sakakawea used to be farming communities. Many of them have learned to diversify their economies by using tourism, the number 2 industry in the state. We know how to court customers and make them glad to do business with us. We have proven that time and time again. But first we need the customers.

Without adoption of a Master Manual, we are floundering without a plan. And if you will excuse the pun, even our hatchery is in danger of floundering. Any version of what they called a Preferred Alternative of the proposed Master Manual would put us in a better situation than we are today. If we knew what we had to work with we would work with it. Please help us put pressure on the Corps of Engineers to release a Master Manual, something that will help us stabilize our economy and plan for our future.

Please help us put pressure on the Corps of Engineers to provide superb recreational facilities for Lewis and Clark travelers.

Please give HCR3040 and 3041 a "do pass." Thank you.

Colista Richardson
Operator's Signature

10/6/03
Date