

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4026

Introduced by

Senators T. Mathern, Heitkamp, G. Nelson

Representatives Boucher, Dorso

- 1 A concurrent resolution urging Congress to enact the Dakota Water Resources Act.
- 2 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota lost more than 500,000 acres of valuable river bottom lands
3 as a result of construction of the Missouri River reservoirs under the federal Flood Control Act
4 of 1944, causing an annual loss of millions of dollars in economic activity as well as other
5 serious impacts to individuals, political subdivisions, and the state's Indian Nations; and
- 6 **WHEREAS**, operation of the Pick-Sloan Missouri River dams has caused extensive
7 damage and erosion to the remaining riverbanks and sediment buildup in areas of the upper
8 reaches of the Oahe and Garrison reservoirs; and
- 9 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota was assured by Congress in the federal Flood Control Act of
10 1944 that the loss of this valuable land and economic return would be offset by completion of
11 the Garrison Diversion Unit; and
- 12 **WHEREAS**, project beneficiaries have not realized the promise of the Garrison
13 Diversion Unit; and
- 14 **WHEREAS**, construction of the Garrison Diversion Unit has been delayed numerous
15 times with construction costs increasing and the remaining benefits deferred with each delay;
16 and
- 17 **WHEREAS**, the Red River Basin needs a dependable supply of water for the cities of
18 Fargo and Grand Forks, smaller communities, rural water systems, industry, agricultural
19 processing, manufacturing, and other purposes, and to protect and enhance the economic
20 stability and quality of life for the growing population of the Red River Basin; and
- 21 **WHEREAS**, failure to provide long-term water supply and management across North
22 Dakota will jeopardize future economic opportunities dependent on water, including industry,
23 agricultural processing, manufacturing, municipal growth, recreation, and fish and wildlife, and
24 will adversely affect the entire state; and

1 **WHEREAS**, primary sources of water for many communities across North Dakota are
2 unsafe and of poor quality and a safe, reliable supply of water is necessary to preserve and
3 improve the quality of life in rural North Dakota; with these supplies being provided by projects
4 such as the Southwest Water Pipeline and the Northwest Area Water Supply Project, as well as
5 other systems now being developed to meet water supply needs; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the Dakota Water Resources Act will identify the most appropriate method
7 to deliver a safe, reliable, and affordable supply of water to eastern North Dakota to address the
8 significant water needs of the Red River Valley; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the Dakota Water Resources Act has received broad support from the
10 state's Indian Nations and communities and organizations across North Dakota in testimony
11 presented in hearings before the United States Senate and the United States House of
12 Representatives;

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

15 That the Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to
16 enact the Dakota Water Resources Act; and

17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Assembly supports the efforts of the
18 Governor, the Congressional Delegation, legislative leaders, tribal chairmen, and others who
19 worked together with other interested parties to reach consensus on legislation to complete the
20 Garrison Diversion Unit Project; and

21 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Assembly urges prompt enactment
22 of the Dakota Water Resources Act to achieve the goal of improving the long-term water supply
23 of North Dakota; and

24 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this
25 resolution to the Governor, the Secretary of the Interior, and each member of the North Dakota
26 Congressional Delegation.