

**Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 9, 2001**

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3021
(Representatives Kasper, B. Thoreson, Wald)
(Senators Espegard, Fischer, Robinson)

A concurrent resolution expressing appreciation for passage of the Dakota Water Resources Act and urging Congress to fully fund the federal share of the water projects in that Act.

WHEREAS, North Dakota and its Indian tribes lost more than 500,000 acres of valuable river bottom lands 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 activity as well as other serious impacts to individuals, political subdivisions, and the state's Indian Nations; and

WHEREAS, operation of the Pick-Sloan Missouri River dams has caused extensive damage and erosion to the remaining riverbanks 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 federal 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 beneficiaries have not realized the promise of the Garrison Diversion Unit; and

WHEREAS, construction of the Garrison Diversion Unit has been delayed numerous times with construction costs increasing and the remaining benefits deferred with each delay; and

WHEREAS, primary sources of water for many communities across North Dakota, including on its Indian reservations, are unsafe and of poor quality and a safe, reliable supply of water is necessary to preserve and improve the quality of life in rural North Dakota, and projects such as the Southwest Water Pipeline Project, the Northwest Area Water Supply Project, and other systems now being developed are needed to meet water supply needs; and

WHEREAS, failure to provide long-term water supply and management across North Dakota will jeopardize future economic opportunities dependent on water, including industry, agricultural processing, manufacturing, municipal growth, recreation, and fish and wildlife, and that failure will adversely affect the entire state; 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, and to protect and enhance the economic stability and quality of life for the growing population of the Red River Basin; and

WHEREAS, the Dakota Water Resources Act proposes an objective analysis of the best ways to meet those needs and authorizes federal funding to implement the solution; and

WHEREAS, the Dakota Water Resources Act provides immediate funding authority for the Native American and rural areas of the state through the existing municipal, rural, and industrial grant program; and

WHEREAS, under the Dakota Water Resources Act, the state of North Dakota will be required to provide cost share or repayment and operation and maintenance expenses for delivery of water to the Red River Valley;

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

That the Fifty-seventh Legislative Assembly expresses appreciation for passage of the Dakota Water Resources Act and urges the Congress of the United States to fully fund the federal share of the water projects in that Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this resolution to the Governor, the Secretary of the Interior, the chairman of the Three Affiliated Tribes, the chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, and each member of the North Dakota Congressional Delegation.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2001,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State