

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3017**

Introduced by

Representatives Onstad, Charging, Drovdal, N. Johnson, Sukut

Senator Warner

1 A concurrent resolution urging the Governor to recognize the negative impact and to declare a  
2 state disaster as a result of the low water levels of Lake Sakakawea and the Missouri River  
3 system.

4 **WHEREAS**, the low water levels of Lake Sakakawea and the Missouri River system are  
5 having a devastating impact on businesses dependent upon the lake as well as detrimentally  
6 impacting the entire economy of North Dakota, including recreational use of the lake; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the low lake level is adversely affecting municipal water systems and water  
8 intakes, thus jeopardizing the quantity and quality of water available for human consumption;  
9 and

10 **WHEREAS**, the low lake level is adversely affecting irrigation systems dependent upon  
11 the lake as a source of water, and irrigators are unable to realize the investment they have  
12 made in irrigation systems that are unusable as a result of low water levels; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the Western Area Power Administration has estimated that electricity  
14 production at the Garrison Dam is at 64 percent of efficiency or capacity because of the low  
15 headwaters at the dam; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the sales tax revenue of communities located around the lake is at an  
17 all-time low because of the adverse impact on recreation caused by the low lake level; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the fishing industry on Lake Sakakawea is being devastated because of  
19 low lake levels with limited fish reproduction occurring due to low water levels; and

20 **WHEREAS**, moneys invested in low-water boat ramps are not being recouped because  
21 the lake has reached unprecedented low levels, making even low-water boat ramps unusable;

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

Sixtieth  
Legislative Assembly

1           That the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly urges the Governor to recognize the negative  
2 impact and to declare a state disaster as a result of the low water levels of Lake Sakakawea  
3 and the Missouri River system; and

4           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly urges the  
5 Governor to implement a low water level disaster aid program through the Bank of North  
6 Dakota to assist businesses adversely affected by the low water levels of Lake Sakakawea and  
7 the Missouri River system; and

8           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this  
9 resolution to the Governor, the President of the Bank of North Dakota, and to each member of  
10 the State Water Commission.