

Sixty-first
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO.

Introduced by

Senator Grindberg

(Approved by the Delayed Bills Committee)

1 A concurrent resolution urging Congress to establish the Red River Valley authority as an
2 agency or authorized board of the federal government for the purpose of the regulation and
3 control of water quality of the Red River and regulation and control of the retention and flow of
4 water, including retention by dams, retention ponds or other areas, and of drainage on the Red
5 River.

6 **WHEREAS**, the Red River of the north and its contributing tributaries and watershed
7 have experienced repeated problems with massive dangerous and destructive flooding which
8 has caused or seriously threatened the health, safety, and welfare of citizens along the Red
9 River and the property of citizens of federal, state, and local government; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the repeated flooding and threat of flooding has required and extraordinary
11 level of time, money, and resources of state, local, and federal government in fighting and
12 recovering from the repeated floods which, in terms of financial impact may exceed two
13 hundred million dollars for the flood event of spring 2009 and which cumulatively over the past
14 twelve years has estimated to have had a financial impact in the hundreds of millions of dollars;
15 and

16 **WHEREAS**, there exists certain regulatory conflicts between urban and rural areas and
17 between different states affected by the Red River and its contributing tributaries such that
18 water quality and quantity concerns are not being consistently addressed, regulated, or
19 enforced; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the state's of Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota are affected by
21 and therefore have an interest in the control of the volume and flow of water and the retention of
22 water in the Red River as well as the quality of water in the Red River; and

23 **WHEREAS**, there are differences in the procedures and regulations of Minnesota, North
24 Dakota, and South Dakota pertaining to the governance and procedures establishing rules for

1 the control of water quality, water flow, water retention, and pertaining to the enforcement of
2 those laws and rules; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the circumstances described in this resolution constitute a matter of
4 interstate concern which the federal government is uniquely able to address;

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

7 That the Sixty-first Legislative Assembly urges the Congress of the United States to
8 establish the Red River Valley authority as an agency or authorized board of the federal
9 government for the purpose of the regulation and control of water quality of the Red River and
10 regulation and control of the retention and flow of water, including retention by dams, retention
11 ponds or other areas, and of drainage on the Red River.

12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Congressional Act establishing the Red River
13 Valley authority to provide a process for the President of the United States to appoint the
14 members of a board consisting of no more than nine members who have all but two members
15 being residents of the area serviced by the Red River Valley authority and with provisions that
16 require the President to consider recommendations from public officials such as the governor's
17 of the states of Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota; individual citizens; individuals
18 representing business, industry, labor, electric power distribution, the environment, cities, and
19 service organizations; and the Congressional Delegations of the states of Minnesota, North
20 Dakota, and South Dakota to identified qualified members; and

21 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Secretary of State forward copies of this
22 resolution to the President; governor's of Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota; and to
23 each member of the Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota Congressional Delegations.