

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 28

WHEREAS, the State of Missouri contains 553 miles of the Missouri River, which borders 23 Missouri counties and over 50 Missouri communities, making it one of the state's greatest natural resources; and

WHEREAS, eighteen power plants, which have the capacity to generate over 11,000 megawatts of electricity, draw cooling water from the lower Missouri River basin; and

WHEREAS, the State of Missouri has constructed infrastructure to support water supply and power generation in the lower Missouri River basin with the understanding that reliable navigation flows would be maintained in the future; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri General Assembly supports this natural resource as a vital link in the State of Missouri's total transportation system and wishes to maximize this valuable asset in order to move freight and to support our state's economy; and

WHEREAS, removing water from the Missouri River in upstream states will have a significant, negative economic and social impact upon Missouri and other downstream states by impacting navigation, power generation, and drinking water availability; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Dakota has for decades relentlessly pursued the Garrison Diversion which would pump Missouri River water across the Continental Divide into the Red River of the North against the wishes of Missouri, Minnesota, Canada, Manitoba and conservation groups; and

WHEREAS, the needs of the Red River basin could be met by in-basin sources which provide the highest benefit-to-cost ratio of all plans considered; and

WHEREAS, the Garrison Diversion has been reviewed and rejected by the last four successive Presidential Administrations; and

WHEREAS, the Garrison Diversion has the capacity to annually divert nearly the equivalent of Kansas City's entire water supply for nine years; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Reclamation has assumed unprecedented rates of population growth in the Red River Valley while predicting no growth in water use in the Missouri River basin; and

WHEREAS, the proposed diversion would endanger the many uses of the Missouri River water for drinking water, power plant cooling and transportation for citizens of Missouri:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-fifth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby urge the United States Congress to deny any request for authorization to transfer water out of the Missouri River by use of the Garrison Diversion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Missouri Senate, Ninety-fifth General Assembly, First Regular Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby urge Missouri's Congressional delegation to vehemently oppose the Garrison Diversion and actively favor an in-basin alternative for the Red River Valley; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the Secretary of Interior, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and to each member of Missouri's Congressional delegation.