

CHAPTER 189

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 5028

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION memorializing the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation and United States Congress to partner with the State of Kansas in order to extend the productive lives of reservoirs in Kansas.

WHEREAS, Kansas reservoirs provide drinking water supplies directly and indirectly to approximately 80 percent of Kansans; and

WHEREAS, Reservoirs were constructed in Kansas by the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the United States Bureau of Reclamation with anticipated productive lives of 50 to 100 years; and

WHEREAS, Many of those reservoirs are approaching 50 years of age; and

WHEREAS, Sediment levels in the reservoirs contribute to the loss of storage capacity for drinking water and drought-prevention purposes, as well as the loss of water quality for drinking water supply purposes and the loss of access to recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, It will be less expensive and less technically challenging to address the loss of water storage and increased sediment in each reservoir before such conditions constitute a crisis for the people of Kansas: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas, the Senate concurring therein: That the Kansas Legislature calls upon the United States Congress, United States Army Corps of Engineers and United States Bureau of Reclamation to form a partnership with the State of Kansas to extend the productive lives of reservoirs; and

Be it further resolved: That members of this partnership shall enter into suitable arrangements with the State of Kansas to jointly develop and implement plans to sustain the reservoirs beyond their original design lives. Such plans shall consider the need for future flood protection, water supply and reasonable recreational opportunities; and

Be it further resolved: That members of this partnership shall determine needed amendments to statutory and regulatory requirements and procedures in order to meet the objectives necessary to sustain threatened reservoirs beyond their original design lives and shall report needed amendments to the Kansas legislature and the United States Congress by January, 2009; and

Be it further resolved: That the United States Army Corps of Engineers and United States Bureau of Reclamation make pre-eminent the sustainability of existing reservoirs in perpetuity for flood control, drought management, drinking water supplies and reasonable recreational opportunities; and

Be it further resolved: That members of this partnership shall determine needed amendments to statutory and regulatory requirements and procedures to permit payments by the State of Kansas for water storage and the operation and maintenance of existing reservoirs. Other similar payments shall be made directly to the United States Army Corps of Engineers and United States Bureau of Reclamation to fund programs that sustain and rehabilitate reservoirs in Kansas and shall report needed amendments to the Kansas legislature and the United States Congress by January, 2009; and

Be it further resolved: That payments made by the State of Kansas to the United States Army Corps of Engineers or United States Bureau of Reclamation to fund reservoir sustainability or rehabilitation, shall constitute payments for its share of operations and maintenance costs and principal and interest on the original contractual obligation; and

Be it further resolved: That members of this partnership shall identify and amend statutory and regulatory prohibitions against the management of reservoirs as systems, rather than individually; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation and each member of the Kansas Congressional delegation.

Adopted by the Senate March 26, 2008.
