

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4057

Introduced by

Senators G. Nelson, Mathern

Representatives Dorso, Boucher

(Approved by the Delayed Bills Committee)

1 A concurrent resolution urging Congress to complete the Garrison Diversion project, to provide
2 water for eastern North Dakota, and to meet the other water needs of the state.

3 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota lost more than 500,000 acres of valuable river bottomlands
4 as a result of construction of the Missouri River reservoirs under the federal Flood Control Act
5 of 1944, causing an annual loss of millions of dollars in economic gross product and an
6 additional annual loss in personal income as well as other serious impacts to individuals,
7 political subdivisions, and North Dakota's Indian Nations; and

8 **WHEREAS**, operation of the Pick-Sloan Missouri River dams has caused extensive
9 damage and erosion to the remaining river banks and sediment buildup in areas of the upper
10 reaches of the Oahe and Garrison reservoirs; and

11 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota was assured by Congress in the Flood Control Act of 1944
12 that the loss of this valuable land and economic return would be offset by completion of the
13 Garrison Diversion Unit; and

14 **WHEREAS**, project benefits to date have not fully realized the promise of Garrison
15 diversion; and

16 **WHEREAS**, construction of Garrison diversion by the federal government has been
17 delayed numerous times with construction costs increasing and the remaining benefits deferred
18 with each delay; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the Red River Basin needs a dependable supply of water for the cities of
20 Fargo and Grand Forks, smaller communities, rural water systems, industry, agricultural
21 processing, manufacturing, and other purposes, including minimum flows, and to protect and
22 enhance the economic stability and quality of life for the growing population of the Red River
23 Basin; and

24 **WHEREAS**, North Dakota has tremendous potential to produce irrigated high-value
25 nonsurplus crops, and a dependable water supply for the James River is necessary for the

1 Oakes test area and to realize the incredible economic opportunity to produce onions, potatoes,
2 vegetables, and other high-value crops under irrigation; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the short-term solution to Devils Lake flooding includes an emergency
4 outlet, upper basin storage and infrastructure protection, and the long-term solution to Devils
5 Lake water management includes an inlet and outlet facility, upper basin storage, and
6 infrastructure protection as parts of a stabilization plan to protect against periods of flooding and
7 drought; and

8 **WHEREAS**, communities and rural water systems across North Dakota need a clean
9 dependable water supply to preserve the quality of life in rural North Dakota; with such supplies
10 being provided by projects such as the Southwest Pipeline Project and the Northwest Area
11 Water Supply as well as other systems now being developed to meet water supply needs; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Missouri River water, delivered to eastern North Dakota via the Sheyenne
13 River, provides the best practical solution to bring a dependable and adequate water supply to
14 satisfy the growing water needs of the Red River Basin, the James River, Devils Lake, and
15 other areas for the long-term future; and

16 **WHEREAS**, most North Dakotans will benefit from ensuring an adequate water supply
17 to areas of need; and

18 **WHEREAS**, failure to provide long-term water supply and management for the Red
19 River Basin, the James River, Devils Lake, and other areas will jeopardize future economic
20 opportunities dependent on water, including industry, agricultural processing, manufacturing,
21 municipal growth, recreation and fish and wildlife, and will adversely affect the entire state of
22 North Dakota;

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

25 That construction and completion of a federally funded Garrison Diversion is a critical
26 priority for water supply, management, and development in the State of North Dakota; and

27 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the State of North Dakota is prepared to assume
28 responsibility for planning, constructing, operating, and maintaining the Garrison principal water
29 supply facilities; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that establishment of an economic recovery water fund
2 would advance municipal, rural, agriculture, industry, tourism, recreation, wildlife, aesthetics,
3 and other water-related economic development projects; and

4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislative Assembly urges the Governor, the
5 members of the Congressional delegation, and legislative leaders to work together in ongoing
6 negotiations with other interested parties to reach consensus on legislation to complete the
7 Garrison Diversion project and thereby achieve the goal of long-term future water supply for the
8 Red River Basin; the James River; Devils Lake; Northwest Area Water Supply; the Southwest
9 Pipeline; community water supply systems; rural water systems; Indian municipal, rural, and
10 industrial water supply systems, and other areas, and to establish or enhance resources,
11 wildlife, and water funds to assist in the development and completion of the Garrison Diversion
12 Unit; and

13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be forwarded by the
14 Secretary of State to the Governor, each member of the North Dakota Congressional
15 Delegation, and the United States Secretary of the Interior.