

1 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15
2 BY GRIES, RANTS, VANDE HOEF, EDDIE, HUSEMAN, GREIG,
3 KLEMME, WARNSTADT, HOUSER, NELSON of Pottawattamie,
4 DAGGETT, DRAKE, VEENSTRA, and NUTT
5 A Concurrent Resolution objecting to a plan proposed by
6 the United States Corps of Engineers to dramatically
7 alter the operation of the Missouri River, and to request
8 that the current operation of the river be maintained or
9 that an alternative plan be considered that does not
10 negatively impact upon the effective operation of the river.
11 WHEREAS, the Missouri River is a major waterway of
12 the United States, bordering the entire western side
13 of the state of Iowa for more than 200 miles; and
14 WHEREAS, the average volume of water that flows
15 past the cities of Omaha, Nebraska, and Council
16 Bluffs, Iowa, equals 32,120 cubic feet per second
17 which is equivalent to approximately 23 million acre-
18 feet per year; and
19 WHEREAS, the drainage area above Omaha, Nebraska,
20 and Council Bluffs, Iowa, equals 232,000 square miles;
21 and
22 WHEREAS, Iowa is one of the nation's preeminent
23 agricultural states, and consistently one of the
24 leading states in both corn and soybean production;
25 and
26 WHEREAS, Iowa and other upper midwestern states
27 bordering the Missouri River represent a major grain-
28 producing region of the United States; and
29 WHEREAS, the Missouri River is used to transport a
30 significant proportion of the region's grain bound for

1 export markets; and

2 WHEREAS, the United States Army Corps of Engineers
3 has completed a draft environmental impact statement,
4 containing findings embodied in a United States Army
5 Corps of Engineers study referred to as the Missouri
6 River Master Water Control Manual Review and Update;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, the draft version of the environmental
9 impact statement analyzes a new method of operation
10 for the Missouri River system which will result in an
11 additional flow of water in the spring, shorter
12 navigation seasons, and further reductions in service
13 to navigation; and

14 WHEREAS, the rising river level in the spring as
15 contemplated in the plan proposed by the United States
16 Army Corps of Engineers will increase risks to land
17 along the river by causing additional flooding,
18 increasing groundwater tables, and reducing the
19 effectiveness of drainage systems, including the
20 effectiveness of gate valves along the river designed
21 to facilitate drainage; and

22 WHEREAS, reductions in support to navigation and
23 the lack of water flowing into the river during dry or
24 drought periods will reduce the commercial value of
25 the Missouri River to an extent that the continued
26 existence of vital barge traffic on the river will be
27 jeopardized; NOW THEREFORE,

28 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE
29 SENATE CONCURRING, That the plan proposed by the
30 United States Corps of Engineers to dramatically alter

1 the operation of the Missouri River threatens land
2 neighboring the river and the vitality of navigation
3 on the river which is essential to commerce; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the United States Army
5 Corps of Engineers is urged to reevaluate its proposal
6 and maintain the current operation of the river or
7 consider an alternative plan that does not negatively
8 impact upon Iowa and other states bordering the
9 Missouri River; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That if the plan proposed
11 by the United States Army Corps of Engineers is
12 adopted administratively, that the Iowa congressional
13 delegation cooperate to take all actions necessary to
14 ensure that moneys are not made available for the
15 proposal's implementation; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
17 Resolution be sent to the President of the United
18 States; the Chief of Engineers, United States Army
19 Corps of Engineers; the Missouri River Division
20 Commander, United States Army Corps of Engineers; the
21 President of the United States Senate; the Speaker of
22 the United States House of Representatives; and
23 members of Iowa's congressional delegation.

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