

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 26

BY GREINER and HAHN

A Concurrent Resolution in support of maintaining the Mississippi River as a major transportation route for various products shipped into and out of the Upper Mississippi region.

WHEREAS, barges operating on United States inland waterways are the dominant carriers of United States grains to export port facilities; and

WHEREAS, the barge share of grain movement to export ports increased from 43 percent in 1974 to 54 percent in 1991 and the majority of this barge grain traffic is on the Mississippi River system; and

WHEREAS, the Upper Mississippi River is the dominate originator of grain barge traffic for export; and

WHEREAS, 95 percent of the world's population live outside the United States; and

WHEREAS, economies and populations continue to grow worldwide and these agricultural export markets are essential to the economic future of the upper Midwest including Iowa; and

WHEREAS, barriers to increased international trade continue to decline making export markets even more likely to grow; and

WHEREAS, international markets are very competitive and opportunities can be gained or lost based on very small differences in price; and

WHEREAS, the United States Army Corps of Engineers projects Upper Mississippi River barge traffic to

1 double between 1987 and 2020; and

2 WHEREAS, increased barge traffic will continue to  
3 place a burden on the river transportation system  
4 which is more than 50 years old; and

5 WHEREAS, the original design specifications for the  
6 locks and dams have been surpassed by modern barge  
7 technology resulting in delays because tows must be  
8 broken down to move through the locks; and

9 WHEREAS, delays now costing \$35 million per year  
10 are projected to rise as high as \$200 million per  
11 year; and

12 WHEREAS, shipping products by rail or truck would  
13 significantly increase costs and consumption of fuel  
14 and the emission of pollutants into the atmosphere;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, a consistent, economical and reliable  
17 inland waterway system is critical to our economy; and

18 WHEREAS, the national economic and public benefit  
19 of the Upper Mississippi River system is more than \$1  
20 billion per year and the maintenance costs are only  
21 \$130 million; NOW THEREFORE,

22 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE  
23 SENATE CONCURRING, That the maintenance of the Upper  
24 Mississippi River system is essential to the economic  
25 well-being of Iowa and the Midwest; and

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Congress should  
27 continue full funding for the Upper Mississippi River  
28 -- Illinois Waterway Navigation Feasibility Study;  
29 provide adequate funding for major rehabilitation  
30 efforts on the Upper Mississippi River; clearly

1 recognize that transportation activities on the river  
2 must continue; and expedite the current study process  
3 being undertaken by the United States Army Corps of  
4 Engineers regarding the system's use through the year  
5 2050; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this  
7 Resolution be sent to the President of the United  
8 States; the Chief of Engineers, United States Army  
9 Corps of Engineers, North Central Division; the United  
10 States Secretary of Transportation; the Speaker of the  
11 United States House of Representatives; and the  
12 members of Iowa's congressional delegation.

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