

2/6/96 Transportation
2/13/96 Do Pass
FILED FEB 6 1996

S - (p.472) 2/27/96 Adopted
OH-3/2/96 Do Pass

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 105
2 BY FRAISE
3 (COMPANION TO HCR 26 BY GREINER)
4 A Concurrent Resolution in support of maintaining the
5 Mississippi River as a major transportation route
6 for various products shipped into and out of the
7 Upper Mississippi region.
8 WHEREAS, barges operating on United States inland
9 waterways are the dominant carriers of United States
10 grains to export port facilities; and
11 WHEREAS, the barge share of grain movement to
12 export ports increased from 43 percent in 1974 to 54
13 percent in 1991 and the majority of this barge grain
14 traffic is on the Mississippi River system; and
15 WHEREAS, the Upper Mississippi River is the
16 dominant originator of grain barge traffic for export;
17 and
18 WHEREAS, 95 percent of the world's population live
19 outside the United States; and
20 WHEREAS, economies and populations continue to grow
21 worldwide and these agricultural export markets are
22 essential to the economic future of the upper Midwest
23 including Iowa; and
24 WHEREAS, barriers to increased international trade
25 continue to decline making export markets even more
26 likely to grow; and
27 WHEREAS, international markets are very competitive
28 and opportunities can be gained or lost based on very
29 small differences in price; and
30 WHEREAS, the United States Army Corps of Engineers

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1 projects Upper Mississippi River barge traffic to
2 double between 1987 and 2020; and

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

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

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

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

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

19 WHEREAS, the national economic and public benefit
20 of the Upper Mississippi River system is more than \$1
21 billion per year and the maintenance costs are only
22 \$130 million; NOW THEREFORE,

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

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

1 efforts on the Upper Mississippi River; clearly
2 recognize that transportation activities on the river
3 must continue; and expedite the current study process
4 being undertaken by the United States Army Corps of
5 Engineers regarding the system's use through the year
6 2050; and

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

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