

House Resolution Number

Whereas, a thirteen-year debate over the Missouri River's summer depth has ended with a decision by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to reduce the summer flow of water in the Missouri River, a decision that pleases the upriver states that have fought to reduce summer flows to keep water levels high in reservoirs and the environmentalists who contend that a deeper Missouri River in the summer threatens two species of birds and the pallid sturgeon; and

Whereas, as a result of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service decision, this year the Army Corps of Engineers will control the amount of water released from upriver dams to reduce the summer flow of water in the Missouri River; and

Whereas, uncertain about the depth of the Missouri River over the summer, the two barge companies that move grain and fertilizer on the Missouri River, Memco Barge Line of Chesterfield and Blaske Marine of Alton, have shut down operations at least through 2004 and have stopped taking orders from grain and fertilizer wholesalers positioned along the Missouri River; and

Whereas, with reduced availability of barges, asphalt, fertilizer, and other commodities must be shipped by rail or truck at up to ten times the cost of shipping by barge, which will have a significant adverse impact on agriculture and construction in Missouri; and

Whereas, when the flows on the Missouri River are reduced, the water level on the Mississippi River will also be lowered and cause similar problems for barge traffic and the shipping of commodities on the Mississippi River, as evidenced by several tows which ran aground in the St. Louis area in August 2003 after the Missouri River flows were reduced:

Whereas, the State of Missouri supports higher water levels on the Missouri River to accommodate larger tows and ease barge traffic:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, strongly urge the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to reverse its decision to lower the summer flows on the Missouri River and permit the Army Corps of Engineers to release more water upriver to provide higher water levels

on both the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Gale Norton, Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior.

Offered by _____

Representative Wayne Henke

District No. 11

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. ____, adopted ____, 2004.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker