

# State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-EIGHTH SESSION  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2003

273I0779

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

Introduced by: Senators de Hueck, Duenwald, Moore, and Reedy and Representatives Rounds, Davis, Deadrick (Thomas), Garnos, Hackl, Hunhoff, Juhnke, Michels, Nesselhuf, Olson (Ryan), and Van Gerpen

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Asking the United States Congress to assist in finding  
2 solutions to chronic sedimentation-related problems in the Missouri River.

3 WHEREAS, the Cheyenne River, White River, and Bad River watersheds cover large  
4 portions of western South Dakota, and the Niobrara River watershed covers a large portion of  
5 central and western Nebraska; and

6 WHEREAS, erosion from throughout these watersheds has brought millions of metric tons  
7 of sediment into the Missouri River reservoir system; and

8 WHEREAS, over the past forty years, the sediment from the Bad River has caused the bed  
9 of the Missouri River to rise significantly, most notably in the Pierre-Fort Pierre area; and

10 WHEREAS, this long-standing problem has resulted in significant problems for residents of  
11 these communities as they struggle with both groundwater and overland flooding in low-lying  
12 areas; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1997, Congress saw fit to authorize a flood mitigation project within the two  
14 communities to assist residents living in the affected areas of Pierre and Fort Pierre; and

15 WHEREAS, Congress has appropriated nearly \$30 million over the past six years and has



1 directed the United States Army Corps of Engineers to oversee the implementation of this  
2 project; and

3 WHEREAS, the scope of the project increased significantly upon implementation of the  
4 authorization legislation by the United States Army Corps of Engineers; and

5 WHEREAS, new authorization legislation may be needed to finish the project in an  
6 appropriate fashion; and

7 WHEREAS, numerous other communities adjacent to the Missouri River are seeing the  
8 dramatic effects of sedimentation on wildlife, tourism, and hydroelectric generation potential; and

9 WHEREAS, if left unchecked, the continued increase in sedimentation will cause vast  
10 stretches of the Missouri River to be changed forever; and

11 WHEREAS, this will have both an environmental and economic impact not only on those  
12 communities adjoining the Missouri River, but the entire State of South Dakota:

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Seventy-eighth Legislature  
14 of the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the  
15 Legislature requests the United States Congress to approve authorization legislation that would  
16 complete the intent of the 1997 Pierre-Fort Pierre Flood Mitigation Act; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Seventy-eighth Legislature of the State of South  
18 Dakota asks Congress to implement a long-term strategy to deal with the increasingly serious  
19 problem of sedimentation and the negative effects felt by people and communities along the  
20 Missouri River.