

ENROLLED SENATE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 3

By: Long (Ed) of the Senate

and

Voskuhl and Beutler of the
House

A Concurrent Resolution relating to public drinking water standards; memorializing Congress to direct the Environmental Protection Agency to review certain nitrate concentration standards; stating items to include in review of standard; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, numerous public water supply systems in Oklahoma which serve small populations and utilize groundwater sources have been determined to exceed the national standard for nitrate concentration in public water supplies; and

WHEREAS, treatment techniques for nitrate removal are costly to construct and maintain, and often require a level of operational expertise which may not be available to small systems; and

WHEREAS, sources of alternative acceptable groundwater are generally not available in the immediate area for systems which continue to exceed the standard for nitrate concentration and it is often not financially feasible to purchase water from other public water supply systems because of the distances between the systems; and

WHEREAS, this situation has existed in Oklahoma and in most other states in the central portion of the United States for many years with extremely limited documentation of adverse health impact, particularly in light of the exposure based on the number of systems in violation, even when the standard was exceeded three times over; and

WHEREAS, there is insufficient data to conclude that exceeding the current standard established for nitrate constitutes a significant threat to the public health.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 45TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature and the Oklahoma Water Resources Task Force respectfully memorializes the Congress of the United States to direct the United States Environmental Protection Agency to review the existing standard for nitrate concentration to determine if a revision of the regulation is warranted.

THAT a review of the standard for nitrate concentration should include an analysis of innovations or changes in technology, treatment technique or other activities that have occurred and which can be reasonably implemented in a small public water system.

THAT the standard should be based on appropriate, peer-reviewed, scientific information to establish assessment of the health risk associated therewith and set at a level which presents a meaningful opportunity for public health risk reduction for persons served by small public water supply systems.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation, the President of the United States and the Governor of the State of Oklahoma.

Adopted by the Senate the 25th day of April, 1995.

President of the Senate

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 5th day of April, 1995.

Speaker of the House of Representatives