

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 47th Legislature (1999)

SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION 36

By: Rozell and Kerr of the
Senate

and

Bonny of the House

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution memorializing Oklahoma's Congressional Delegation to protect the purity of Oklahoma's rivers through continuing USGS stream flow monitoring systems by restoring proposed federal budget cuts for water resources investigations; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, due to changing priorities, beginning October 1, 1999, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will no longer provide funds for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to monitor daily water flow at 36 sites currently monitored in the State of Oklahoma. The Corps will only maintain the sites during periods of high water or for flood discharge measurement; and

WHEREAS, this policy means accurate measurements of other flow conditions and accurate discharge data will not be available to the public, to private entities or to federal, state or local governments. The policy will eliminate future use of these sites for updating estimates of low flow and other stream flow statistics. There will be insufficient data to calculate annual flow or other yields; and

WHEREAS, the impact of drought on these streams will be undocumented and flow data for all uses will be unrecorded because the Corps will no longer maintain a database of flow conditions. Some of the stations have been operating for up to 73 years. Now that wealth of useful information will be ended; and

WHEREAS, the monitoring of these USGS river gages has assisted the state in luring tourists from throughout the area to Oklahoma's rivers for recreational purposes, spending untold thousands of dollars within this state's borders. These tourists will spend their time, energy and money in other states where such information is available to the public; and

WHEREAS, the USGS provides the nation with reliable, impartial information about the earth to minimize the loss of lives and property from natural disasters, to manage biological, water, mineral and energy resources, to enhance and protect the quality of life, and to contribute to wise economic and physical development; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of the Interior has proposed to cut federal matching funds for water resources investigation that would come to Oklahoma and other states by at least ten percent in order to fund other programs; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board has been willing to assist the USGS in this project, but additional needed state funding could be over a third of a million dollars.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 47TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature memorializes the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation to protect the purity of Oklahoma's rivers by ensuring the continuance of the USGS stream flow monitoring system by restoring proposed federal budget cuts for water resources investigations.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation.

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