

ENROLLED HOUSE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1008

By: Pope (Clay) of the House

and

Laughlin of the Senate

A Concurrent Resolution relating to the High Plains Ogallala Aquifer and promotion of an interstate compact; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the High Plains Aquifer, also known as the Ogallala Aquifer, underlies portions of the six plains states of Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, significant portions of western Oklahoma and the Panhandle area of Oklahoma rely almost exclusively on the Ogallala Aquifer to supply all water needs and uses, including but not limited to agriculture and irrigation use, domestic drinking water and stock water use, municipal and industrial use and other beneficial uses; and

WHEREAS, there have been several studies of the High Plains Ogallala Aquifer, including but not limited to the United States Geological Survey Regional Aquifer-System Analysis (RASA) study in 1984 and the Six-State High Plains Ogallala Aquifer Regional Resources Study for the U.S. Department of Commerce and the High Plains Study Council in July 1982, which studies confirm the hydrologic connection of the aquifer underlying the six states; and

WHEREAS, the six states that share this unique and valuable water resource have many common water quantity and water quality issues related to use of groundwater from the High Plains Ogallala Aquifer, including water marketing, transfer and potential depletion and concentrated animal feeding operations and potential pollution; and

WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma desires to initiate dialogue and negotiations with the other five states for the formation of an interstate compact to address common issues related to the High Plains Ogallala Aquifer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 48TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma Water Resources Board is directed to contact appropriate water administration officials of the states of Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico and Texas and appropriate officials of the United States to initiate dialogue and negotiations for the formation of a water compact to obtain assistance and

cooperation in the conservation and use of the High Plains Ogallala Aquifer.

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature encourages the United States Congress to act in concert with the state governments of Oklahoma, Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas to ensure that any necessary federal action be done as expeditiously as possible and that any necessary federal assistance can quickly be brought to bear.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the Governor, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, and the Congressional Delegations of and the appropriate officials of the water administration agencies for the states of Oklahoma, Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 13th day of March, 2001.

Presiding Officer of the House of
Representatives

Adopted by the Senate the 18th day of April, 2001.

Presiding Officer of the Senate