

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE
CONCURRENT
2 RESOLUTION NO. 1042

By: Smithson of the House

3 and

4 Ballenger of the Senate
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7 A Concurrent Resolution encouraging the sale of
8 certain land owned by the United States Army Corps of
Engineers; and directing distribution.
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11 WHEREAS, the United States Army Corps of Engineers owns
12 approximately 11.7 million acres of federal land which equals about
13 two percent of the total federal real estate; and

14 WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers owns four hundred
15 fifty-six lakes in forty-three states, including the many thousands
16 of acres of land that surround each of the lakes; and

17 WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers typically owns two
18 different types of real estate around lakes, "fee land", which is
19 property that the Corps owns outright, and "flowage easement", which
20 is privately owned property on which the government purchased the
21 perpetual right to flood up to a certain elevation above sea level;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, under federal rules, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
24 may issue a license or may lease fee lands to individuals and

1 companies, but there are specific restrictions and procedures that
2 must be followed; and

3 WHEREAS, most of the lakes and federal land owned by the U.S.
4 Army Corp of Engineers is surrounded by privately owned land; and

5 WHEREAS, a large percent of the lands owned by the U.S. Army
6 Corps of Engineers around Corps lakes are in a flood plain and
7 therefore are not suitable to build permanent or habitable
8 structures on but may be desirable land to the surrounding private
9 land owners; and

10 WHEREAS, if the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sold the thousands
11 of acres surrounding Corps lakes to private individuals or
12 companies, the Corps could retain a flowage easement on the land and
13 still restrict the use of the land and prohibit any structures or
14 activities that would interfere with the flood control mission of
15 the Corps; and

16 WHEREAS, selling some or all of the thousands of acres
17 surrounding U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lakes would allow private
18 landowners to maximize the beneficial use of the land, would
19 increase property values, and would return the land to the tax rolls
20 which would generate additional revenue for state and local
21 governments; and

22 WHEREAS, in addition, selling some or all of the thousands of
23 acres surrounding U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lakes, could generate
24 millions of dollars in revenue for the federal government.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE
3 CONCURRING THEREIN:

4 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature encourages the United States
5 Congress to pass legislation requiring the sale of some or all of
6 the thousands of acres of federal land owned by the United States
7 Army Corps of Engineers that is located around Corps lakes to
8 private individuals or companies.

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

11 Adopted by the House of Representatives the 14th day of May,
12 2009.

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Presiding Officer of the House of
Representatives

Adopted by the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2009.

Presiding Officer of the Senate