

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Tuesday, April 13, 2010

# House Resolution No. 1083

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1083 - By: JONES of the House.

A Resolution reaffirming the request that Congress allocate sufficient funding for critical maintenance needs on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System; requesting funding to deepen the System; and directing distribution.

1       WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Oklahoma does understand the  
2 importance and economic value of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation  
3 System to the State of Oklahoma; and

4       WHEREAS, the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System handles over  
5 13 million tons of cargo consisting of steel, construction materials, agricultural products,  
6 petroleum products and chemicals and finished goods for the central United States, with  
7 over 40% of the cargo flowing through the public and private ports and terminals in  
8 Oklahoma; and

9       WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Oklahoma also understands the  
10 importance of properly maintaining and modernizing infrastructure to prevent failures  
11 and emergency closures of the Navigation System as demonstrated in adoption of House  
12 Concurrent Resolution No. 1029 of the 1st Session of the 52nd Oklahoma Legislature;  
13 and

1           WHEREAS, the Corps of Engineers has not received sufficient funding in the past  
2 several years for proper maintenance and modernization thereby threatening the safety,  
3 performance and reliability of the Navigation System; and

4           WHEREAS, the twenty most critical maintenance projects now will cost an  
5 estimated \$80 million to properly address, and all deferred maintenance will cost an  
6 estimated \$162 million to accomplish; and

7           WHEREAS, there is a 50% chance of failure of any or all of the twenty critical  
8 projects in the next five years; and

9           WHEREAS, closure of the Navigation System will cost Oklahoma industries and  
10 shippers \$1.3 million for every day the System remains closed; and

11           WHEREAS, in 2007 the United States Congress authorized spending \$160 million  
12 to deepen the operating draft of the System to 12 feet which will increase the efficient  
13 movement of interstate cargo by enabling each barge to be loaded to the equivalent of 80  
14 truckloads as compared to the current 60 truckloads and which will remove an average of  
15 960 trucks per tow from the highways thereby improving safety on the highways; and

16           WHEREAS, to date the United States Congress has only partially funded actual  
17 construction of the deepening of the operating draft of the Navigation System; and

18           WHEREAS, it is also vital that the United States Congress provide funding to  
19 widen the Navigation System from 150 feet to 300 feet between Muskogee, Oklahoma,  
20 and Catoosa, Oklahoma, to allow for increased capacity and better efficiencies of barge  
21 traffic.

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

4           THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives reaffirms the request made in  
5 House Concurrent Resolution No. 1029 of the 1st Session of the 52nd Oklahoma  
6 Legislature, that the Congress of the United States immediately allocate sufficient  
7 funding for all critical maintenance needs on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River  
8 Navigation System to bolster America’s essential waterway transportation system for  
9 this and future generations.

10          THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives also requests that the Congress of  
11 the United States approve funding to deepen the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River  
12 Navigation System to 12 feet as previously authorized by Congress.

13          THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to President Barack Obama,  
14 President of the Senate Joseph Biden, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, and each  
15 member of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation.

16 DIRECT TO CALENDAR.