

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 52nd Legislature (2009)

3 HOUSE CONCURRENT
4 RESOLUTION 1024

By: Derby of the House

5 and

6 Brogdon of the Senate

7
8 AS INTRODUCED

9 A Concurrent Resolution expressing opposition to the
10 proposed lockage fee for the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas
11 River Navigation System; and directing distribution.

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14 WHEREAS, the Rivers and Harbors Act passed by the United States
15 Congress in 1946 authorized the construction and maintenance of the
16 McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System; and

17 WHEREAS, at four hundred forty-five miles long with eighteen
18 locks and dams, the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System
19 is a reliable, year-round waterway; and

20 WHEREAS, the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System is
21 essentially a series of navigation pools connected by locks which
22 enables vessels to overcome a 420-foot difference in elevation from
23 the Mississippi River to the head of navigation at Catoosa,
24 Oklahoma; and

1 WHEREAS, because barges are one of the most energy-efficient
2 forms of transportation and there is an adequate capacity for
3 growth, there is a resurgence of interest in shipping many types of
4 commodities by inland waterway; and

5 WHEREAS, it is important that there are continued improvements
6 of and development to the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation
7 System to ensure its continued viability; and

8 WHEREAS, currently navigation improvements on the McClellan-Kerr
9 Arkansas River Navigation System are cost-shared between the federal
10 government paying fifty percent and the waterway industry paying
11 fifty percent, with the waterway industry share being funded by a
12 tax of twenty cents per gallon on diesel fuel consumed by the barge
13 and towing industry; and

14 WHEREAS, President Obama's budget proposal for fiscal year 2010
15 contains a provision whereby the existing diesel fuel tax is
16 replaced with a lockage fee that will disproportionately impact
17 shippers on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System with
18 its eighteen locks and dams; and

19 WHEREAS, the proposed change in the funding method from a diesel
20 fuel tax to a lockage fee is not in the best interest of the
21 McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System.

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

1 THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature expresses opposition to the
2 lockage fee for the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System
3 as proposed in the President's budget proposal for the fiscal year
4 2010.

5 THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the President
6 of the United States and to members of Oklahoma's Congressional
7 Delegation.

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9 52-1-7835 KB 04/22/09

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