

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 52nd Legislature (2010)

3 HOUSE CONCURRENT
4 RESOLUTION 1061

By: Renegar and Brown of the
House

5 and

6 Ellis and Wilson of the
7 Senate

8
9 AS INTRODUCED

10 A Concurrent Resolution demanding certain parties
11 refrain from entering into a certain agreement for
12 Sardis Reservoir assets until certain time and under
13 certain circumstances; directing certain meetings be
14 open and public; directing that certain agreement
15 address distribution of benefits and proceeds; and
16 directing distribution.

17 WHEREAS, it has come to light that certain government
18 representatives have privately developed an agreement whereby the
19 State of Oklahoma, through the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, would
20 transfer a tremendous asset, specifically the storage contract and
21 water supply facilities for Sardis Reservoir located in southeastern
22 Oklahoma, to the Oklahoma City Water Utilities Trust in exchange for
23 payments owed by the State of Oklahoma to the federal government;
24 and

1 WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma and the United States government
2 have been in dispute for over thirty years over payments owed by the
3 state for the Sardis Reservoir facilities and under terms of the
4 most recent court order the State of Oklahoma is obligated to make
5 one lump-sum payment of nearly Twenty-eight Million Dollars by July
6 1, 2010, or begin making five annual payments of over Five Million
7 Dollars in addition to payments for water storage; and

8 WHEREAS, the citizens of southeast Oklahoma have been
9 particularly harmed by not being allowed to participate in the
10 negotiations over one of the most valuable natural resources and
11 economic development tools available to their area of the state; and

12 WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma is currently in the process of
13 updating the comprehensive water plan of the water resources and
14 water needs of the State of Oklahoma which is a multiyear process
15 due to be completed in 2011, and any transfer of Sardis Reservoir
16 water or facilities prior to completion of the comprehensive water
17 plan would be premature and potentially costly for the state; and

18 WHEREAS, it would be wise and prudent to make an accurate
19 appraisal of the monetary value of the Sardis Reservoir asset prior
20 to any final sale or long-term obligation of such a valuable
21 resource, keeping in mind the future water needs of all citizens of
22 the state and the best utilization of the asset.

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

4 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature hereby demands that all parties
5 involved in the agreement to sell or lease Sardis Reservoir assets
6 from the State of Oklahoma to the Oklahoma City Water Utilities
7 Trust refrain from completing or taking further action regarding the
8 agreement until the Oklahoma comprehensive water plan has been
9 completed and a full and accurate appraisal of the value of the
10 Sardis Reservoir water resources and facilities involved has been
11 completed.

12 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature directs that from this date
13 forward and prior to completion of any sale, lease or other binding
14 agreement relating to the transfer of the Sardis Reservoir
15 resources, all meetings pertaining to the issue be open, public
16 meetings with all governmental entities and citizens given equal
17 representation and an opportunity to participate in the process.

18 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature directs that any sale, lease or
19 other binding agreement relating to the transfer of the Sardis
20 Reservoir resources address a proportional distribution of any
21 monetary or economic benefits and proceeds resulting therefrom to
22 all governmental entities and citizens.

23 THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the Governor,
24 the Chair of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, the Executive

1 Director of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, the Mayor of the
2 City of Oklahoma City, the Chair of the Oklahoma City Water
3 Utilities Trust and the Attorney General of the State of Oklahoma.

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