

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 HOUSE

4 RESOLUTION 1083

By: Jones

5
6 AS INTRODUCED

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

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13 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Oklahoma does
14 understand the importance and economic value of the McClellan-Kerr
15 Arkansas River Navigation System to the State of Oklahoma; and

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

22 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Oklahoma also
23 understands the importance of properly maintaining and modernizing
24 infrastructure to prevent failures and emergency closures of the

1 Navigation System as demonstrated in adoption of House Concurrent
2 Resolution No. 1029 of the 1st Session of the 52nd Oklahoma
3 Legislature; and

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

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

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

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

16 WHEREAS, in 2007 the United States Congress authorized spending
17 \$160 million to deepen the operating draft of the System to 12 feet
18 which will increase the efficient movement of interstate cargo by
19 enabling each barge to be loaded to the equivalent of 80 truckloads
20 as compared to the current 60 truckloads and which will remove an
21 average of 960 trucks per tow from the highways thereby improving
22 safety on the highways; and

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

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

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

10 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives reaffirms the request
11 made in House Concurrent Resolution No. 1029 of the 1st Session of
12 the 52nd Oklahoma Legislature, that the Congress of the United
13 States immediately allocate sufficient funding for all critical
14 maintenance needs on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation
15 System to bolster America's essential waterway transportation system
16 for this and future generations.

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

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

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