

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE CONCURRENT
4 RESOLUTION 56

By: Ellis and Wilson of the
Senate

5 and

6 Renegar and Brown of the
7 House

8
9 AS INTRODUCED

10 A Concurrent Resolution demanding certain parties
11 refrain from entering sale or lease agreements for
12 certain water resources and facilities; requiring
13 certain public meetings and participation; and
14 directing distribution.

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

22 WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma and the United States government
23 have been in dispute over payments owed by the state for the Sardis
24 Reservoir facilities under a 1974 contract, and under terms of the

1 most recent court order the State of Oklahoma is obligated to make
2 one lump sum payment of nearly \$28,000,000 by July 1, 2010, or begin
3 making annual payments, beginning with five annual payments of over
4 \$5,000,000 in addition to payments for water storage; and

5 WHEREAS, the citizens of Southeast Oklahoma have been
6 particularly harmed by not being allowed to participate in the
7 negotiations over the most valuable natural resource and economic
8 development tool available to their area of our state; and

9 WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma is currently in the process of
10 updating our comprehensive water plan, a multi-year process due to
11 be completed in 2011, of our state's water resources and its needs
12 and any transfer of Sardis Reservoir water or facilities prior to
13 completion of the comprehensive water study would be premature and
14 potentially costly for our state; and

15 WHEREAS, prior to any final sale or long-term obligation of such
16 a valuable resource it would be wise and prudent to make an accurate
17 appraisal of the monetary value of this asset and keeping in mind
18 the future water needs of all the citizens of this state and how
19 such assets may be best utilized.

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

23 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature hereby demands all parties
24 involved refrain from entering any sale or lease agreement

1 transferring Sardis Reservoir assets from the State of Oklahoma to
2 the Oklahoma City Water Utilities Trust or any other party, prior to
3 completion of the update to comprehensive water plan and a full and
4 accurate appraisal of the value of the water resources and the
5 facilities involved.

6 THAT prior to any sale, lease or other binding agreement to
7 transfer such Sardis Reservoir resources all meetings pertaining to
8 this issue shall be held in public with all governmental entities
9 and citizens given equal representation in the process and a
10 proportional share of any monetary or economic benefits resulting
11 therefrom.

12 THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the Governor,
13 the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
14 Representatives, the Chair of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board,
15 the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, the
16 Mayor of the City of Oklahoma City, the Chairman of the Oklahoma
17 City Water Utilities Trust and the Attorney General of the State of
18 Oklahoma.

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