

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
CONCURRENT
2 RESOLUTION NO. 20

By: Bingman and Fields of the
Senate

3
4 and

O'Donnell of the House
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7 A Concurrent Resolution encouraging appropriate
maintenance and enhancement to ensure the continued
8 viability and reliability of the McClellan-Kerr
Arkansas River Navigation System; and directing
9 distribution.
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12 WHEREAS, the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System
13 (MKARNS) is a 445-mile waterway that serves the heartland of America
14 with low-cost, reliable and environmentally friendly transportation;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, the McClellan-Kerr opens markets both domestically and
17 internationally, resulting in a competitive advantage for Oklahoma
18 and surrounding states; and

19 WHEREAS, in an average year, 13 million tons of cargo valued at
20 \$3.7 billion and equal to 650,000 truck loads are transported on the
21 MKARNS, which is comprised of three arteries of water known as the
22 Verdigris, Grand and Arkansas Rivers; and
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1 WHEREAS, shipping by water provides savings to agricultural
2 producers and manufacturers of up to 65% in transportation costs;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, a 12-barge tow holds up to 1,500 tons of product, or
5 the equivalent carrying capacity as that of 720 semi-trucks or 180
6 railcars, reducing damages to our surface transportation
7 infrastructure; and

8 WHEREAS, the MKARNS was completed in 1971 at a cost of \$1.2
9 billion and has attracted over \$5 billion in private investment,
10 over 90 industries, 7,500 jobs, and an annual payroll of over \$200
11 million in Oklahoma alone; and

12 WHEREAS, the navigation system was built at a nine-foot depth
13 but since has been authorized to be dredged to 12 feet by Congress
14 in 2004, but has never been funded; and

15 WHEREAS, a 12-foot channel would increase transportation
16 efficiency by 30%, making our region more viable for economic growth
17 by offering business and industry a greater competitive advantage;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, the MKARNS has now been in operation for 42 years and
20 its 18 locks and dams are nearing their 50-year life cycles; and

21 WHEREAS, the United States Army Corps of Engineers have
22 determined the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System to
23 have \$100 million worth of backlogged maintenance, with 50% of those
24 needed fixes likely to fail within the next five years.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION
2 OF THE 54TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
3 CONCURRING THEREIN:

4 THAT the Legislature hereby encourages Congressional action to
5 maintain a resilient, reliable and sustainable waterborne
6 transportation system that optimizes the value of the system to all
7 users and beneficiaries while making the best use of available
8 resources.

9 THAT the Legislature hereby encourages collaboration between the
10 states utilizing the McClellan-Kerr to establish goals to maintain
11 the system for best use and identify opportunities for future
12 development and modernization initiatives that provide national and
13 regional benefits.

14 THAT the Legislature hereby directs a member of the Senate and a
15 member of the House of Representatives be appointed by the President
16 Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
17 Representatives to join appointments from other Legislatures in
18 unifying a regional vision for the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River
19 Navigation System.

20 THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the Speaker of
21 the United States House of Representatives, the President of the
22 United States Senate, and members of the Oklahoma Congressional
23 Delegation with the request that this resolution be officially
24 entered into the Congressional Record.

1 THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the Governors
2 and the Legislatures of Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Texas and
3 Colorado, with the request that this resolution be officially
4 entered into the legislative records of each state.

5 Adopted by the Senate the 22nd day of April, 2013.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

9 Adopted by the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
10 2013.

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Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

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