Resolution

ENROLLED SENATE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 20

By: Bingman, Fields and Stanislawski of the Senate

and

O'Donnell and Cannaday of the House

A Concurrent Resolution encouraging appropriate maintenance and enhancement to ensure the continued viability and reliability of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS) is a 445-mile waterway that serves the heartland of America with low-cost, reliable and environmentally friendly transportation; and

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

WHEREAS, in an average year, 13 million tons of cargo valued at $3.7 billion and equal to 650,000 truck loads are transported on the MKARNS, which is comprised of three arteries of water known as the Verdigris, Grand and Arkansas Rivers; and

WHEREAS, shipping by water provides savings to agricultural producers and manufacturers of up to 65% in transportation costs; and

WHEREAS, a 12-barge tow holds up to 1,500 tons of product, or the equivalent carrying capacity as that of 720 semi-trucks or 180

railcars, reducing damages to our surface transportation infrastructure; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 15th day of May, 2013.

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Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____

day of _____, 20 _____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____