

1 MKARNS, which is comprised of three arteries of water known as the
2 Verdigris, Grand and Arkansas Rivers; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 WHEREAS, the United States Army Corps of Engineers have
24 determined the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System to

1 have \$100 million worth of backlogged maintenance, with 50% of those
2 needed fixes likely to fail within the next five years.

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

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

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

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

22 THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the Speaker of
23 the United States House of Representatives, the President of the
24 United States Senate, and members of the Oklahoma Congressional

1 Delegation with the request that this resolution be officially
2 entered into the Congressional Record.

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

7
8 DIRECT TO CALENDAR.

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