

1 _____ JOINT RESOLUTION NO. _____

2 INTRODUCED BY _____
3 (Primary Sponsor)

4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA URGING THE FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO REQUIRE A LONG-TERM
6 SOLUTION TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION ASSOCIATED WITH THE MILLTOWN DAM SITE
7 AND ASSOCIATED AQUIFERS.

8

9 WHEREAS, the Milltown Dam Site, near Missoula, is one element of a broad federal Superfund
10 Program remediation and cleanup project in western Montana; and

11 WHEREAS, contaminated sediments behind the Milltown Dam have damaged the aquifer in the area
12 of the Dam to the detriment of current and future residents; and

13 WHEREAS, the past and current uncontrolled periodic release of sediments from behind the
14 Milltown Dam has caused damage to the aquatic environment of the Clark Fork River below the Dam and
15 these releases will continue to do so for an indefinite time into the future unless appropriate solutions are
16 implemented; and

17 WHEREAS, the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has not finalized the preferred
18 approach for remediation and cleanup associated with the Milltown Dam Site; and

19 WHEREAS, that decision by the EPA will impact the long-term welfare of the citizens of Montana
20 and the ecosystems of the Clark Fork River Basin and its tributaries far beyond the likely corporate
21 longevity of the parties responsible for the Milltown Dam Site; and

22 WHEREAS, a decision by the EPA is currently pending until September 2001, thereby providing
23 an opportunity for the Legislature to comment on its preference for an appropriate long-term solution to
24 protect the Clark Fork River and its associated aquifers and natural values and to protect Montana
25 communities.

26

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
28 STATE OF MONTANA:

29 That the federal EPA be urged to incorporate into its record of decision regarding the Milltown Dam
30 Site a long-term solution to the problem of contaminated sediment located at and behind the Milltown Dam

1 that will eliminate current and future damages to the ecosystem and eliminate or reduce any costs to the
2 present and future citizens of Montana.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the long-term solution to the contamination at the Milltown Dam
4 Site should fully and completely protect from further contamination the local aquifers and the Clark Fork
5 River below the Dam.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the EPA require complete removal of the contaminated sediments
7 if that is the only way to achieve the goals expressed in this resolution.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the
9 President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, the Montana Congressional
10 Delegation, the Chief Executive Officers of the owner of the Milltown Dam and the Atlantic Richfield Oil
11 Company, and the Director, the Region 8 Administrator, and the Montana State Office Director of the
12 Environmental Protection Agency.

13 - END -