

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28

INTRODUCED BY R. NEILL

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A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY TO COMPLETE AN AGRICULTURE SECTOR ASSESSMENT; AND EXAMINING THE EFFECTS OF POTENTIAL CLIMATE VARIABILITY WITH REGARD TO WATER USE AND SUPPLY IN MONTANA'S AGRICULTURE SECTOR.

WHEREAS, an agriculture sector assessment examining water availability and allocation will result in useful scientific results for decisionmakers and stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, an agriculture sector assessment can provide information that leads to better decisions about water availability and allocation by using case studies and historical and current data; and

WHEREAS, an agriculture sector assessment will identify the stages or portions of global, national, and state climate variability models and assessments that are most reliable; and

WHEREAS, an agriculture sector assessment will assist state, local, and tribal governments and the private sector in better understanding the implications of current and potential climate variability in long-range planning.

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

That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to complete an agriculture sector assessment. The assessment must address:

- (1) the key stresses on water availability, distribution, and supply in the agriculture sector in Montana;
- (2) integration of water supply for agriculture with changes in supply and demand by other water users;
- (3) how climate variability will exacerbate or ameliorate current stresses;
- (4) research priorities that are most important to fill knowledge gaps; and
- (5) what options exist that can build resiliency into the system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the assessment include an evaluation of extreme events, including consideration of the indirect effects of environmental impacts that are the consequence of extreme events.



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the assessment evaluate potential impacts to Montana that are  
2 disproportionate across regions and for different types of agricultural economies, with some regions and types  
3 of agricultural economies suffering severe consequences.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the assessment analyze the impact on water availability and  
5 allocation in agriculture, considering multiple factors occurring simultaneously versus individual stresses  
6 considered alone.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any study involve the participation of local, state, federal, and tribal  
8 stakeholders and representatives of the agriculture sector.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to staff, any findings or conclusions be  
10 presented to and reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Legislative Council.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review  
12 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2014.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,  
14 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 64th Legislature.

15 - END -