



A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA SUPPORTING THE PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION TO LINCOLN COUNTY FOR LOSSES INCURRED DUE TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF LIBBY DAM.

WHEREAS, Libby Dam, located in Lincoln County, Montana, is the fourth dam constructed under the Columbia River Treaty, which the Canadian government and the United States government entered into in 1964, and is located on the Kootenai River, which is the third largest tributary to the Columbia River and contributes almost 20% of the total water in the lower Columbia River; and

WHEREAS, Libby Dam was dedicated on August 24, 1975, and spans the Kootenai River 17 miles upstream from the town of Libby, Montana; and

WHEREAS, Lake Koocanusa, the reservoir behind Libby Dam, extends 90 miles north of the dam, with 48 miles of Lake Koocanusa located in Lincoln County and the remainder in British Columbia, Canada; and

WHEREAS, Libby Dam, in Montana's northwest corner, and three dams in Canada were constructed to protect downstream areas from flooding, and Libby Dam holds back an average of 5,800,000 acre-feet of water; and

WHEREAS, economic benefits have been derived from the storage of these floodwaters and the coordinated, timely release of those waters for generation of electricity, irrigation, navigation, and recreation; and

WHEREAS, the construction of Libby Dam placed many thousands of acres of land in Lincoln County under water, leading to decreased real property tax revenues for the county and a loss of timber sales and wildlife and fish habitat, among other losses; and

WHEREAS, the Canadian government was compensated for construction of the dams and storage of floodwaters through a sharing of dollars on electricity from additional power generated at downstream dams and hydropower generating facilities, leading to the formation of the Columbia Basin Trust; and

WHEREAS, citizens of Lincoln County did not participate in the negotiations for the terms of the Columbia River Treaty and no compensation has been received by Lincoln County; and

WHEREAS, the renegotiation of the treaty is currently being considered, and there is a possibility that

compensation could be provided to Lincoln County as a result of federal legislation, litigation, determination of regulations, and the renegotiation of the treaty.

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

That the House of Representatives of the State of Montana supports the payment of compensation to Lincoln County for the decreased real property tax revenues, the loss of timber sales and wildlife and fish habitat, and other losses due to the construction of Libby Dam.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within resolution,  
HR 0003, originated in the House.

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Chief Clerk of the House

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Speaker of the House

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 3

INTRODUCED BY M. CUFFE

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