

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 40
INTRODUCED BY J. WINDY BOY

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING CONGRESS TO APPROVE INCREASED FUNDING FOR REGIONAL WATER PROJECTS IN MONTANA.

WHEREAS, some communities in Montana are plagued with drinking water that contributes to debilitating physical conditions or diseases because of elevated levels of dissolved minerals in the water; and

WHEREAS, some communities face a drastic shortage of drinking water, as well as significant cost increases for treatment facility repairs and mandated upgrades; and

WHEREAS, four regional water projects that are planned or under construction in Montana would provide Indian tribes, farms, ranches, and rural communities with clean and plentiful water; and

WHEREAS, regional water systems, through a centralized water treatment plant, provide for a more economical means of upgrading and updating water treatment processes in response to more stringent federal and state regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Legislature has supported regional water projects through establishment of the treasure state endowment regional water system fund, using coal severance tax money to fund the state portion of the projects; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Peck-Dry Prairie rural water system and the Rocky Boy-North Central Montana system have congressional approval, yet federal funding is not keeping up with inflation for systems with an estimated cost of more than \$250 million each; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Peck-Dry Prairie rural water system and the Rocky Boy-North Central Montana system are each capable of expending up to \$30 million of federal funding a year for construction of system infrastructure.

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

- (1) That the United States Congress approve increased funding for regional water projects in Montana.
- (2) That copies of this resolution be sent by the Secretary of State to the Montana Congressional Delegation.

(3) That the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to each tribal government located on the seven Montana reservations and to the Little Shell Chippewa tribe.

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