



SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 19-002

BY SENATOR(S) Crowder and Coram, Cooke, Donovan, Gardner, Ginal, Lee, Lundeen, Marble, Scott, Story, Tate, Todd, Garcia;
 also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Esgar and Catlin, Roberts, Arndt, Baisley, Beckman, Benavidez, Bockenfeld, Buck, Buckner, Buentello, Caraveo, Carver, Coleman, Cutter, Duran, Exum, Froelich, Galindo, Garnett, Geitner, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Gray, Hansen, Herod, Hooton, Humphrey, Jackson, Jaquez Lewis, Kennedy, Kipp, Kraft-Tharp, Landgraf, Larson, Lewis, Liston, Lontine, McCluskie, McKean, McLachlan, Melton, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Neville, Pelton, Ransom, Rich, Saine, Sandridge, Singer, Sirota, Snyder, Soper, Sullivan, Tipper, Titone, Valdez A., Valdez D., Van Winkle, Weissman, Williams D., Wilson.

CONCERNING MEMORIALIZING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT LEGISLATION DIRECTING THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, IN CONJUNCTION AND COOPERATION WITH THE LOWER ARKANSAS VALLEY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT, TO DREDGE A PORTION OF THE ARKANSAS RIVER.

WHEREAS, Flooding of the Arkansas River Valley has been a longstanding problem in the North La Junta Conservancy District, which lies in and around the town of La Junta, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, The Lower Arkansas River passes through a "pinch point" as it traverses the passage between the towns of La Junta, on the south bank, and North La Junta, on the north bank; and

WHEREAS, Since the 1999 flood, flooding has become a regular occurrence in this area; and

WHEREAS, The flooding in 2016 resulted in a mutual desire among many parties for sedimentation removal and dike construction to ensure

the proper channel flows in the river near La Junta; and

WHEREAS, In 2016, work began to build up the dike on the east end of the conservancy district, along with sedimentation removal throughout the entire channel; and

WHEREAS, By June 1, 2018, the dike had been restored and six large islands full of sedimentation had been removed from the river; and

WHEREAS, After further evaluation, it was noted that one more island on the west end of the conservancy district must also be removed to alleviate pressure on the Lower Arkansas River; and

WHEREAS, This final island is estimated to be 120 feet long, 43 feet wide, and four feet deep for a total of approximately 764 cubic yards of sedimentation; and

WHEREAS, By comparison, the six islands that were removed during the earlier phase of the project totaled 530 cubic yards of sedimentation; and

WHEREAS, This work will help the Lower Arkansas River stay in its channel and travel its path without any further pinch points, thereby alleviating the flooding that has become endemic to this region; and

WHEREAS, The United States Army Corps of Engineers operates and maintains 12,000 miles of commercial inland navigation channels, dredges more than 200 million cubic yards of construction and maintenance dredge material annually, and researches and develops technologies to protect the nation's environment; and

WHEREAS, The United States Army Corps of Engineers possesses the expertise, resources, and authority to take on the formidable task of dredging excess sedimentation from the Lower Arkansas River; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-second General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:

That Congress should immediately enact legislation that directs the

United States Army Corps of Engineers, in conjunction and cooperation with the Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District, to dredge a portion of the Lower Arkansas River from below the Fort Lyons diversion to the John Martin Reservoir.

Be It Further Resolved, That copies of this Joint Memorial be sent to Governor Jared Polis, to each member of Colorado's Congressional delegation, to Senator Michael Bennet, to Senator Cory Gardner, to the Colorado Water Conservation Board, to the North La Junta Conservancy District, to the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, to the Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District, and to the current Secretary of the federal Department of the Interior.

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