

House Resolution No. 2888

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE HANNEGAN.

2393H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

WHEREAS, the Missouri River flows tangent to many cities in this state; and

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WHEREAS, the Missouri River is two thousand three hundred fifteen miles long and drains over half a million square miles; and

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WHEREAS, there are six major dams and nine lesser dams on the Missouri River, all located upstream of Missouri; and

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WHEREAS, some of the dams have created reservoirs, which have enabled better control of the flow of the river and the ability to discourage floods; and

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WHEREAS, a failure of a dam could release the waters it retains and cause catastrophic damage downstream; and

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WHEREAS, the media has reported concerns of the stability of the Fort Peck Dam in Montana; and

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WHEREAS, the Fort Peck Dam is the furthest upstream of the major dams on the Missouri River and creates the Fort Peck Lake, which is the fifth largest artificial lake in the United States; and

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22 **WHEREAS**, the Fort Peck Dam has failed before during its construction in 1938; and

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24 **WHEREAS**, the Fort Peck Dam was damaged in 2011, by record-high runoff and
25 flooding; and

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27 **WHEREAS**, the Fort Peck Dam uses an outmoded hydraulic fill construction technique
28 that is no longer employed in dam construction because of its propensity for failure; and

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30 **WHEREAS**, if the Fort Peck Dam failed, it would release the waters of Fort Peck Lake
31 downstream and stress other dams, possibly causing them to fail as well; and

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33 **WHEREAS**, a chain reaction of dam failures could damage vital highway and railroad
34 bridges crossing the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, both in the State of Missouri and other
35 states; could damage pipelines, power lines, and other property in low-lying areas if levees are
36 breached or topped; and could take lives; and

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38 **WHEREAS**, these public concerns are pertinent with recent high river levels and the
39 large amount of spring precipitation:

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41 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the members of the Missouri House
42 of Representatives, Ninety-ninth General Assembly, hereby urge the President of the United
43 States and the Army Corps of Engineers to examine the potential for catastrophic dam failure on
44 the upper Missouri River and its impact on infrastructure down river, to ensure the stability of
45 bridge crossings and levees to withstand such an event, and to take all necessary steps to mitigate
46 such risks to lives and property; and

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48 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
49 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the

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50 President of the United States and the Commanding General and Chief of Engineers of the U.S.

51 Army Corps of Engineers.

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