

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging the United States Congress to appropriate \$35 million in fiscal year 2012 for the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System.

WHEREAS, the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System is a project that is critically needed to improve the quality of life for over three hundred thousand people in the states of South Dakota, Iowa, and Minnesota by providing quality and plentiful drinking water, and by expanding economic development opportunities; and

WHEREAS, twenty member cities and rural water systems have shown their strong support by paying \$109.2 million, or 99.6 percent of their share of the cost of the project, and by paying it in advance, and in some cases, as early as ten years before getting even a drop of water; and

WHEREAS, the states of South Dakota, Iowa, and Minnesota have shown their strong support by paying, in advance, \$44.3 million or one hundred percent of their share of the cost of the project; and

WHEREAS, the federal government's remaining share of the cost of the project is currently \$188.6 million, which represents 48.5 percent of the cost of the project; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress appropriated \$26.5 million in fiscal year 2008 and \$27 million in fiscal year 2009, but only \$10 million in fiscal year 2010 and will likely appropriate even less in fiscal year 2011; and

WHEREAS, cutting funding for this vital infrastructure increases costs to taxpayers due to the loss of economic development opportunities and because the federal government's remaining share of the cost is indexed annually for inflation; and

WHEREAS, if the project receives only \$10 million per year in federal funding, estimates indicate that it will take until 2048 to complete, the city of Madison will not receive any water until 2035, and the connected members will be forced to pay much higher water rates until all members are connected; and

WHEREAS, funds paid in advance by members and states are either spent or fully obligated to current contracts so the construction schedule for 2011 and beyond is entirely dependent on future federal funding; and

WHEREAS, the timely completion of the project is very important not only to keep costs down for taxpayers, but to provide the member cities and rural water systems with access to a water supply that is critically needed, and to allow the region to continue to grow economically and to benefit from the jobs that will be created during construction:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Eighty-sixth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the South Dakota Legislature urges the United States Congress to honor its commitment by appropriating \$35 million in fiscal year 2012 for the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System.

Adopted by the Senate,
Concurred in by the House of Representatives,

January 27, 2011
February 1, 2011

Matt Michels
President of the Senate

Trudy Evenstad
Secretary of the Senate

Val Rausch
Speaker of the House

Karen Gerdes
Chief Clerk of the House