

# State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-SIXTH SESSION  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2011

875S0214

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

Introduced by: Senators Olson (Russell), Adelstein, Begalka, Bradford, Brown, Buhl, Cutler, Frerichs, Fryslie, Garnos, Gray, Hansen (Tom), Haverly, Heineman, Holien, Hundstad, Hunhoff (Jean), Johnston, Kraus, Krebs, Lederman, Maher, Nelson (Tom), Novstrup (Al), Nygaard, Peters, Putnam, Rampelberg, Rave, Rhoden, Schlekeway, Sutton, Tidemann, Tieszen, and Vehle and Representatives Willadsen, Abdallah, Blake, Bolin, Boomgarden, Brunner, Carson, Conzet, Cronin, Deelstra, Dennert, Dryden, Elliott, Fargen, Feickert, Feinstein, Gibson, Gosch, Haggart, Hansen (Jon), Hawley, Hickey, Hoffman, Hubbel, Hunhoff (Bernie), Hunt, Iron Cloud III, Jensen, Jones, Juhnke, Killer, Kirkeby, Kirschman, Kloucek, Kopp, Liss, Lucas, Lust, Magstadt, Miller, Moser, Munsterman, Nelson (Stace), Novstrup (David), Olson (Betty), Perry, Rausch, Romkema, Rozum, Schaefer, Schrempp, Sigdestad, Sly, Solum, Steele, Street, Stricherz, Tornow, Tulson, Turbiville, Van Gerpen, Vanneman, Venner, Verchio, White, Wick, Wink, and Wismer

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

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

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



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

4 WHEREAS, the federal government's remaining share of the cost of the project is currently  
5 \$188.6 million, which represents 48.5 percent of the cost of the project; and

6 WHEREAS, the United States Congress appropriated \$26.5 million in fiscal year 2008 and  
7 \$27 million in fiscal year 2009, but only \$10 million in fiscal year 2010 and will likely  
8 appropriate even less in fiscal year 2011; and

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

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

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

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

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Eighty-sixth Legislature of  
24 the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the South

- 1 Dakota Legislature urges the United States Congress to honor its commitment by appropriating
- 2 \$35 million in fiscal year 2012 for the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System.