

1 State of Arkansas
2 84th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2003

HCR 1034

4
5 By: Representatives Ledbetter, Weaver, Hickinbotham, Stovall, Milligan, Key
6 By: Senator Womack

7
8
9 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

10 REQUESTING THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION FROM
11 ARKANSAS URGE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO GIVE
12 FINAL AUTHORIZATION TO REALLOCATE WATER STORAGE
13 IN NORTH ARKANSAS LAKES MANAGED BY THE U.S. ARMY
14 CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE MINIMUM
15 FLOWS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE, AND RECREATION
16 PURPOSES.

17
18 **Subtitle**

19 REQUESTING THAT THE CONGRESSIONAL
20 DELEGATION URGE THE UNITED STATES
21 CONGRESS TO GIVE FINAL AUTHORIZATION TO
22 REALLOCATE WATER STORAGE IN NORTH
23 ARKANSAS LAKES TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE
24 MINIMUM FLOWS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE.

25
26
27
28 WHEREAS, in Section 374 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999,
29 the United States Congress authorized the Secretary of the Army to “provide
30 minimum flows necessary to sustain tail water trout fisheries by reallocating
31 the following amounts of project storage: Beaver Lake, 1.5 feet; Table Rock,
32 2 feet; Bull Shoals Lake, 5 feet; Norfolk Lake, 3.5 feet; and Greers Ferry
33 Lake, 3 feet.”; and

34
35 WHEREAS, Congress directed that “[n]o funds may be obligated to carry
36 out work on the ... [minimum flow project] until completion of a final report



1 by the Chief of Engineers finding that the work is technically sound,
2 environmentally acceptable, and economically justified”; and

3
4 WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently in the process
5 of completing its Minimum Flow Study to evaluate the environmental and
6 economic impacts above and below the dams in the White River Basin, and to
7 consider the methods, costs and benefits of reallocating water currently set
8 aside for hydropower, flood control, or a combination of both, to increase
9 flows for trout fisheries and recreation; and

10
11 WHEREAS, it is anticipated that Corps of Engineers’ Minimum Flow Study
12 findings, which should be released for public comment in the fall of 2003,
13 will support allowing additional releases of waters from some or all of the
14 dams in the White River Basin; and

15
16 WHEREAS, the benefits expected from providing the adequate minimum flow
17 are: (1) more stable and increased flow in the White River system, including
18 a larger permanent wetted perimeter in the tail waters below the dams; (2)
19 more stable instream environment so that trout and aquatic life they depend
20 on can prosper, resulting in increased fish production and wade fishing
21 opportunity; (3) easier small boat navigation; and (4) stabilized water
22 temperature; and

23
24 WHEREAS, in 2002, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission sold
25 approximately 160,000 trout permits, which resulted in tourism and outdoor
26 recreational opportunity that generated an overall economic value to the
27 State of Arkansas of approximately 193 million dollars,

28
29 NOW THEREFORE,

30 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-FOURTH GENERAL
31 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

32
33 That United States Senators Blanche Lambert Lincoln and Mark Pryor, and
34 United States Representatives Marion Berry, Vic Snyder, John Boozman, and
35 Mike Ross are requested to urge the United States Congress to give final
36 authorization to reallocate water storage in North Arkansas lakes managed by

1 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to provide adequate minimum flows for fish
2 and wildlife, and recreation purposes.

3
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon the adoption of this Resolution, and
5 after concurrence by the Senate, the Chief Clerk of the House shall transmit
6 appropriately certified copies hereof to the Arkansas Congressional
7 Delegation in Washington, D.C., the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism,
8 and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36