

1 State of Arkansas
2 89th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2013

SR 4

4
5 By: Senator Holland

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7 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

8 TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THE COMPLETION, FUNDING, AND
9 MAINTENANCE OF A TWELVE-FOOT DEEP CHANNEL FOR
10 NAVIGATION ALONG THE ARKANSAS RIVER.

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13 **Subtitle**

14 TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THE COMPLETION,
15 FUNDING, AND MAINTENANCE OF A TWELVE-FOOT
16 DEEP CHANNEL FOR NAVIGATION ALONG THE
17 ARKANSAS RIVER.

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20 WHEREAS, the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System is a 440-
21 mile waterway that serves the heartland of the United States with cheap,
22 reliable, and environmentally friendly transportation; and

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24 WHEREAS, the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System serves
25 Arkansas, Oklahoma, and the surrounding states with ports on the nation's
26 25,000-mile inland waterway system, and foreign and domestic ports beyond by
27 way of New Orleans and the Intracoastal Waterway; and

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29 WHEREAS, in an average year, 13 million tons of cargo are transported
30 on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System; and

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32 WHEREAS, on average a ton of cargo can be transported on the McClellan-
33 Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System for one-third of the cost of other
34 forms of transportation; and

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36 WHEREAS, a full "tow" on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River System



1 consists of 8 barges lashed tightly together and pushed from behind by a
2 single towboat with each barge holding between 1,400 and 1,500 tons of
3 material; and
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5 WHEREAS, the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River System has been in operation
6 for 42 years without any major renovations during that time; and results in
7 billions of dollars' worth of trade for the states it serves; and
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9 WHEREAS, the navigation channel of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River
10 Navigation System is currently a nine-foot deep channel. Public Law 108-137,
11 Section 136, the Energy and Waste Water Development Appropriations Act of
12 2004 authorized a twelve-foot deep channel on the Arkansas River, and the
13 Record of Decision was signed on September 27, 2005, by Major General Don T.
14 Riley after a multiyear study; and
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16 WHEREAS, currently many barges in the Arkansas River are lightly-loaded
17 for the presently maintained nine-foot deep Arkansas River channel. Each foot
18 of draft represents approximately 177 acres of soybeans and therefore gaining
19 3 feet of draft on a fifteen-barge tow equals an additional 7,965 acres of
20 soybeans that can be moved with the same equipment and very little extra
21 fuel; and
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23 WHEREAS, the Arkansas River has an estimated capacity of between
24 thirty-five and forty-five tons per year but the 2010 tonnage was less than
25 11.5 million tons. The restrictive nine-foot deep channel is preventing
26 growth; and
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28 WHEREAS, if the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System were
29 maintaining a twelve-foot deep channel, states utilizing the channel would be
30 competitive in attracting new industries and jobs, helping to prevent the
31 loss of industries and current jobs,
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33 NOW THEREFORE,
34 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
35 STATE OF ARKANSAS THAT THE SENATE:
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1 (1) Encourages Congress and the Arkansas Congressional
2 Delegation to support the completion, funding, and maintenance of the twelve-
3 foot deep channel on the Arkansas River;

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5 (2) Encourages the Governors and Legislatures of Oklahoma,
6 Kansas, Missouri, Texas, and Colorado to investigate the benefits of the
7 McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System and to join Arkansas in
8 calling on their congressional delegations to support the completion,
9 funding, and maintenance of the twelve-foot deep channel on the Arkansas
10 River;

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12 (3) Encourages the Congress of the United States to authorize an
13 interstate compact with the specific purpose of commerce on the McClellan-
14 Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System so that the several states served by
15 the system can work together to promote job industry and creation; and

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17 (4) Encourages the Legislatures of Arkansas and Oklahoma to have
18 a joint meeting in Fort Smith to discuss actions to promote the McClellan-
19 Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System and to invite representatives from any
20 other interested state legislature to attend.

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, the Secretary
23 of the Senate shall transmit a copy to the Speaker of the United States House
24 of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and to all the
25 members of the Arkansas Congressional Delegation with the request that this
26 resolution be officially entered into the Congressional Record.

27
28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, the Secretary
29 of the Senate transmit a copy to the Governors and the Legislatures of
30 Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Texas, and Colorado with the request that the
31 resolution be officially entered into the legislative records of each state.

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