

1 State of Arkansas
2 83rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2001

HCR 1029

4
5 By: Representative Broadway
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8 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

9 REQUESTING THAT THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON
10 AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE SENATE
11 INTERIM COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC AND
12 INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT STUDY THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL
13 FUNDING FOR WATER AND WASTE WATER COLLECTIONS AND
14 DISPOSAL PROJECTS.
15
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17 **Subtitle**

18 REQUESTING THE INTERIM COMMITTEES ON
19 AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
20 CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE NEED FOR
21 ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR WATER AND WASTE
22 WATER PROJECTS.
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25 WHEREAS, water is necessary for life;
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27 WHEREAS, proper collection and disposal of waste water is necessary for
28 the health of our citizens and protection of our environment;
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30 WHEREAS, many of our citizens do not have access to water and waste
31 water systems and many of the existing systems are in need of significant
32 upgrading to meet the required standards;
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34 WHEREAS, flooding causes many millions of dollars damage to the state
35 and is the most deadly natural disaster within the state;
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1 WHEREAS, many of our flood control systems are nearing the end of their
2 design life;

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4 WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") in 1997 estimated
5 water project needs to be two hundred seventy-five million dollars
6 (\$275,000,000) per year, and current federal and state programs provide about
7 seventy-five million dollars (\$75,000,000) per year, resulting in an annual
8 shortfall of two hundred million dollars (\$200,000,000);

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10 WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency estimated in 1996 our
11 waste water collection and treatment project needs to be one hundred fifteen
12 million dollars (\$115,000,000) per year, and current federal and state
13 programs provide about thirty-five million dollars (\$35,000,000) per year,
14 resulting in an annual shortfall of eighty million dollars (\$80,000,000) per
15 year;

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17 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources
18 Conservation Service has estimated our needs to replace aging flood control
19 systems to be five million dollars (\$5,000,000) per year, with about one
20 million dollars (\$1,000,000) per year being available from existing federal
21 and state programs, resulting in a shortfall of four million dollars
22 (\$4,000,000) per year;

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24 WHEREAS, the Governor's Water Resources Task Force estimates total
25 current water and waste water financial needs of the state to be three
26 billion, three hundred million dollars (\$3,300,000,000); and

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28 WHEREAS, a monthly retail water-waste water use fee, one-eighth percent
29 (1/8%) sales and use tax, corporate income tax, redirection of a portion of
30 the General Improvement Fund, or a water withdrawal fee might allow a
31 potential solution to our financing needs,

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33 NOW THEREFORE,

34 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-THIRD GENERAL
35 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

1 THAT the House Interim Committee on Agriculture and Economic
2 Development and the Senate Interim Committee on Agriculture, Economic and
3 Industrial Development, are requested to study the need for additional
4 funding for water and waste water projects within the State of Arkansas, and
5 to make their recommendation in the form of proposed legislation to the
6 Eighty-fourth General Assembly of Arkansas in January, 2003.