

1 State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H3/1/13*

2 89th General Assembly

3 Regular Session, 2013

HR 1022

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5 By: Representative Barnett

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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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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Subtitle

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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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WHEREAS, the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System is a 440-

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mile waterway that serves the heartland of the United States with cheap,

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reliable, and environmentally friendly transportation; and

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WHEREAS, the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System serves

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Arkansas, Oklahoma, and the surrounding states with ports on the nation's

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25,000-mile inland waterway system, and foreign and domestic ports beyond by

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way of New Orleans and the Intracoastal Waterway; and

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WHEREAS, in an average year, 13 million tons of cargo are transported

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on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System; and

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WHEREAS, on average a ton of cargo can be transported on the McClellan-

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Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System for one-third of the cost of other

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forms of transportation; and

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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 million tons* per year but the 2010 tonnage was
25 less than 11.5 million tons. The restrictive nine-foot deep channel is
26 preventing 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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH GENERAL
35 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:
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