1	State of Arkansas As Engrossed: H3/1/13
2	89th General Assembly
3	Regular Session, 2013 HR 1022
4	
5	By: Representative Barnett
6	
7	HOUSE 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.
11	
12	
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.
18	
19	
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
23	
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
28	
29	WHEREAS, in an average year, 13 million tons of cargo are transported
30	on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System; and
31	
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
35	
36	WHEREAS, a full "tow" on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River System

02-26-2013 13:18:14 DLP171

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 4 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 8 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 Record of Decision was signed on September 27, 2005, by Major General Don T. 13 14 Riley after a multiyear study; and 15 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 22 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 preventing growth; and 26 27 28 WHEREAS, if the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System were 29 maintaining a twelve-foot deep channel, states utilizing the channel would be competitive in attracting new industries and jobs, helping to prevent the 30 31 loss of industries and current jobs, 32 33 NOW THEREFORE,

35 36

34

ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH GENERAL

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;
4	
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;
11	
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
16	
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.
21	
22	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, the Chief Clerk
23	of the House of Representatives shall transmit a copy to the Speaker of the
24	United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States
25	Senate, and to all the members of the Arkansas Congressional Delegation with
26	the request that this resolution be officially entered into the Congressional
27	Record.
28	
29	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, the Chief Clerk
30	of the House of Representatives transmit a copy to the Governors and the
31	Legislatures of Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Texas, and Colorado with the
32	request that the resolution be officially entered into the legislative
33	records of each state.
34	
35	/s/Barnett
36	