

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Amistad International Reservoir, situated on
3 the Texas-Mexico border near Del Rio, supplies water to numerous
4 area communities for municipal, industrial, and agricultural
5 purposes; yet, with a salt content near the upper limit of the Texas
6 standard for drinking water, the reservoir may become an unusable
7 resource for all; and

8 WHEREAS, Two of its main tributaries, the Rio Grande and the
9 Pecos River, are heavily saturated with salt due in part to the
10 composition of the surrounding land, which was once part of a great
11 inland sea; when dry land emerged, salt from the sea was trapped in
12 the soil and in underground aquifers; originating in New Mexico,
13 the Pecos River, in particular, is one of the most saline waterways
14 in North America and accounts for nearly 30 percent of the salt
15 loading of the reservoir; and

16 WHEREAS, The upper limit of Texas drinking water standards
17 for minerals including salt is 1,000 milligrams per liter; when
18 that limit is exceeded, municipalities that rely on water released
19 into the Rio Grande from the Amistad Reservoir will face costly
20 treatment methods to meet state standards; moreover, the elevated
21 levels of salt may force farmers to discontinue the growth of
22 certain crops; while fresh water inflow from runoff could help
23 alleviate the salinity, the potential for such runoff is limited;
24 and

1 WHEREAS, The Amistad International Reservoir is shared by
2 both the United States and Mexico, in accordance with the terms of a
3 1944 treaty; for that reason and because the reservoir's holdings
4 derive from multiple states, it is incumbent on the national
5 government to take the lead in addressing this urgent problem; and

6 WHEREAS, Congress began that process by enacting Section 729
7 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, 33 U.S.C. Section
8 2267a, and by developing a program in Section 5056 of the Water
9 Resources Development Act of 2007, Pub. L. No. 110-114, 121 Stat.
10 1041, 1213-1214 (2007), that directs the secretary of the army to
11 rehabilitate and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and to implement
12 long-term monitoring, data collection and analysis, applied
13 research, and adaptive management within the Rio Grande Basin; and

14 WHEREAS, Past studies must be evaluated to determine a
15 strategy for moving forward; in addition, it is imperative that
16 funding and continuing authority for Section 5056 of the Water
17 Resources Development Act of 2007, which is set to expire in 2011,
18 be reenacted so that efforts to solve the salt problem in the
19 reservoir can continue; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
21 hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to reauthorize
22 the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, Section 5056, and to
23 appropriate sufficient funds to carry out work related to that
24 legislation; and, be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
26 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, the
27 speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the

1 senate of the United States Congress, and all the members of the
2 Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution
3 be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to
4 the Congress of the United States of America.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 2 was adopted by the Senate on April 7, 2011, by a viva-voce vote.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 2 was adopted by the House on May 25, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 123, Nays 20, two present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor