S.C.R. No. 2

By: Uresti (Gallego)

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## 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 composition of the surrounding land, which was once part of a great 10 inland sea; when dry land emerged, salt from the sea was trapped in 11 the soil and in underground aquifers; originating in New Mexico, 12 the Pecos River, in particular, is one of the most saline waterways 13 in North America and accounts for nearly 30 percent of the salt 14 loading of the reservoir; and 15

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

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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 2267a, and by developing a program in Section 5056 of the Water 8 9 Resources Development Act of 2007, Pub. L. No. 110-114, 121 Stat. 1041, 1213-1214 (2007), that directs the secretary of the army to 10 rehabilitate and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and to implement 11 long-term monitoring, data collection and analysis, applied 12 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

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

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