

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 333

Introduced by McDonnell, 5.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this interim study is to examine the possibility of placing one or more reservoirs on the Platte River and its tributaries for the purpose of flood control, hydroelectric energy, recreation, economic development, and environmental stewardship.

The study shall be completed in collaboration with the University of Nebraska College of Engineering and affected stakeholders. Stakeholders shall include representatives from the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Environment and Energy, the Game and Parks Commission, affected municipalities and natural resources districts, local taxing authorities, affected drainage districts, and other interested entities. The study shall consider the impact and placement of one or more reservoirs of sufficient size and scale to provide flood control, a stable and reliable drinking water supply, power generation, extreme weather mitigation, and recreation, and to attract and retain a workforce to foster regional and economic growth.

The issues addressed by this interim study shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) A history of the Platte River watershed;
- (2) The purpose of and need for such reservoirs on the Platte River;
- (3) A description of a possible reservoir project;
- (4) Project challenges and benefits;
- (5) Next steps;
- (6) Water supply issues, including existing water supplies, future water supply needs, water rights, flood control, hydrology and hydraulics, and methodology;
- (7) Existing flood risk and predicted flood risk with and without a

reservoir project;

(8) Recreation, including existing regional recreation and future regional recreational needs;

(9) Hydropower, including existing power demands, future power demands, and the integration of hydropower into regional power production;

(10) Site selection and optimization;

(11) Conceptual reservoir design;

(12) Possible project features, including an evaluation of alternatives;

(13) Potential project costs and benefits;

(14) Alternative reservoir locations;

(15) Expansion of existing facilities;

(16) A description of the outcomes if no action is taken;

(17) Screening of alternatives;

(18) Permitting issues and procedures; and

(19) Necessary collaboration with federal agencies such as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the United States Department of Agriculture for the completion of such potential reservoir project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Natural Resources Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.