

House Engrossed

floodwater harvesting; study; urging Congress

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-fifth Legislature
First Regular Session
2021

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL 2004

A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL

URGING CONGRESS TO FUND A STUDY ON FLOODWATER HARVESTING.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 To the Congress of the United States of America:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, the seven Colorado Basin states, which consist of Arizona,
4 California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming, are in the
5 twentieth year of severe drought and are therefore experiencing a severe
6 water shortage; and

7 Whereas, water levels are critical. Lake Powell and Lake Mead store
8 the water supply for both urban and rural usage, and, if drought
9 conditions continue, these reservoirs are likely to reach critically low
10 elevations by 2026; and

11 Whereas, on January 21, 2020, the Lake Mead water level was at 43%,
12 or approximately 1,093 feet; and

13 Whereas, the Hoover Dam impounds Lake Mead and provides power to
14 millions of people in Southern California, Nevada and Arizona. If the
15 level of Lake Mead declines below 1,050 feet, hydropower generation will
16 be significantly reduced; and

17 Whereas, at 895 feet, Lake Mead can no longer provide water; and

18 Whereas, a new water source could help augment Colorado River
19 supplies; and

20 Whereas, Denver, Colorado is successfully harvesting floodwater from
21 the Missouri River to help alleviate its water shortage; and

22 Whereas, in wet years, the Mississippi River reaches flood level
23 with a resulting loss of vast quantities of water into the Gulf of Mexico;
24 and

25 Whereas, historic flooding in 2011 and 2019 along the Mississippi
26 River caused 11 deaths and damaged infrastructure, homes, businesses and
27 agriculture and other industries. Combined estimates of damages and losses
28 of the flooding exceeded \$9.5 billion, according to the United States
29 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

30 Whereas, liquid can be successfully moved thousands of miles through
31 pipelines; and

32 Whereas, Arizona has long been at the forefront among western states
33 in supporting the development and implementation of pioneering,
34 well-reasoned water management policies.

35 Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of

36 Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

37 1. That the United States Congress fund a technological and
38 feasibility study of developing a diversion dam and pipeline to harvest
39 floodwater from the Mississippi River to replenish the Colorado River and
40 prevent flood damage along the Mississippi River.

41 2. That, if shown to be feasible, the United States Congress
42 implement the diversion dam and pipeline as a partial solution to the
43 water supply shortage in Lake Powell and Lake Mead and the flood damage
44 that occurs along the Mississippi River.

1 3. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit
2 copies of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the
3 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Governors of
4 the Mississippi River states of Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky,
5 Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee and Wisconsin, and
6 each Member of Congress from the State of Arizona.