

House Engrossed

Colorado River; seven-state agreement

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2038

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING A SEVEN-STATE CONSENSUS AGREEMENT ON POST-2026 OPERATING
GUIDELINES ON THE COLORADO RIVER.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Whereas, key operating guidelines for the Colorado River between
2 Upper Basin and Lower Basin states expire this year; and

3 Whereas, the Colorado River is a vital resource for this state, as
4 Arizona's major population center, agricultural industry, advanced
5 technology sector, tribal communities and military bases rely heavily on
6 water from the Colorado River; and

7 Whereas, supporting Arizona's economy and the state as a whole is
8 vital to national security, national economy and the national food
9 supply; and

10 Whereas, within the overall Colorado River Basin, approximately 75
11 percent of all jobs, people, crop sales and economic activity are located
12 within the Lower Basin States of Arizona, California and Nevada; and

13 Whereas, Arizona has been meeting and continues to meet with Upper
14 Basin states to find a consensus on the additional reductions that will be
15 needed to ensure compliance with the 1922 Colorado River Compact; and

16 Whereas, Arizona and the Lower Basin States have offered and
17 continue to offer collaborative solutions to proactively protect the
18 Colorado River system; and

19 Whereas, Arizona is using less water today than in the 1950s despite
20 population growth of more than 500 percent; and

21 Whereas, the Lower Basin States have already taken real, meaningful
22 reductions to conserve almost 8.9 million acre-feet in Lake Mead since
23 2007; and

24 Whereas, between 2023 and 2026, the Lower Basin States will have
25 generated up to 3.7 million acre-feet of verified audited conservation,
26 safeguarding the Colorado River system; and

27 Whereas, Arizona has invested \$211 million in water conservation
28 projects that will save up to 6.6 million acre-feet of water over the
29 respective lives of the projects; and

30 Whereas, Arizona remains diligent in its efforts to work together,
31 continue meeting and find a solution that provides certainty to all Basin
32 States while protecting the Colorado River system; and

33 Whereas, the Lower Basin States have provided a solution that is
34 intended to address the structural deficit in the Lower Basin and share
35 reductions needed to protect the Colorado River system; and

36 Whereas, throughout the negotiations with the Basin States, it is
37 necessary to reach an agreement that continues to benefit all Basin States
38 while sharing the risk of reductions.

39 Therefore

40 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona,
41 the Senate concurring:

42 That the Members of the Legislature support a mutual, seven-state
43 agreement that benefits all Basin States and protects the major population
44 centers and industries in Arizona that are vital to our national security,
45 economy and food supply.