

REFERENCE TITLE: Colorado River; seven-state agreement

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

## **HCR 2038**

Introduced by  
Representatives Griffin: Blackman

### 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 agricultural industry, advanced technology sector and military  
5 bases rely heavily on water from the Colorado River; and

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

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

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

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

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

20           Whereas, the Lower Basin states have already taken 8.9 million  
21 acre-feet of real, meaningful reductions in Colorado River use; and

22           Whereas, by the end of 2026, the Lower Basin states will have  
23 generated up to 3.7 million acre-feet of verified audited conservation,  
24 safeguarding the Colorado River system; and

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

28           Whereas, Arizona remains diligent in its efforts to work together,  
29 continue meeting and find a solution that respects all basin states while  
30 upholding the 1922 Compact; and

31           Whereas, the Lower Basin states have addressed and will continue to  
32 address the structural deficit in the Lower Basin; and

33           Whereas, throughout the negotiations with the basin states, it is  
34 necessary to reach an agreement that continues to benefit all basin  
35 states.

36 Therefore

37 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona,  
38 the Senate concurring:

39           That the Members of the Legislature support a mutual, seven-state  
40 agreement that benefits all basin states and protects the industries in  
41 Arizona that are vital to our national security, economy and food supply.