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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3

INTRODUCED BY HALVORSON, BARDANOUVE, JAMES MOORE, SHELLEN, FINLEY, SLOAN, CILLIGAN, MURPHY, R. BAETH, KIMBLE, W. BAETH, DRISCOLL, GWYNN, FLEMING, SEIFERT

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA URGING THE PROVINCE PROVINCES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, ALBERTA AND SASKATCHEWAN, THE STATE OF MONTANA, AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES TO TAKE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION TO ASSURE THAT COAL AND OTHER ENERGY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT ALONG THE NORTH FORK OF THE FLATHEAD RIVER, THE PROPOSED POPLAR RIVER, AND THE-AREA-OF-MONTANA-SOUTH-OF-THE-ESTEVA, PROJECT, AND THE SASKATCHEWAN PROJECT, WILL NOT DEGRADE THE EXISTING HIGH QUALITY OF THE AIR AND WATER ALONG THE FLATHEAD RIVER AND OTHER RIVERS, AND THAT COPIES OF THIS RESOLUTION BE SENT TO THE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES.

WHEREAS, the Canadian headwaters of the North Fork of the Flathead River are already--the-site-of PROPOSED FOR open-pit coal mining and there exists great interest in further developing open-pit mining as well as developing oil and gas resources along the North Fork of the Flathead River, and

WHEREAS, the Montana Flathead River drainage, which

includes the west slope of Glacier-Waterton International Peace Park and all of Flathead Lake, is enjoyed by thousands of Montanans and Canadians because the unspoiled air and water provide an excellent region for year-around outdoor recreation, and

WHEREAS, the economic stability of the Flathead valley depends upon preserving the high quality of the air and water vital to agriculture and the forests.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the State of Montana expresses its deep concern that the development of open-pit coal mining and of other energy resources along the headwaters of the North Fork of the Flathead River, on both sides of the international border, should not be permitted to degrade the high quality of the air and water in the Flathead River drainage, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the State of Montana urges the instrumentalities of the governments of Canada, the Province of British Columbia, the United States, and Montana to exercise the greatest attention when reviewing and issuing mining permits for developing the coal and other energy resources along the Flathead River, THE PROPOSED POPLAR RIVER PROJECT, SASKATCHEWAN PROJECT, AND OTHER RIVER drainage DRAINAGES and to take affirmative action in order

1 to assure that all reasonable precautions will be taken to
2 preserve the high quality of the air and water all along the
3 Flathead River, POPLAR RIVER PROJECT, SASKATCHEWAN PROJECT,
4 AND OTHER RIVERS, and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State
6 send copies of this resolution to the Minister for External
7 Affairs of the Dominion of Canada, the Secretary of State of
8 the United States of America, the Premier and Parliament of
9 the Province of British Columbia, the Governor of the State
10 of Montana, and the International Boundary JOINT Commission.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT THE MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL
12 DELEGATION PURSUE THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THIS RESOLUTION WITH
13 APPROPRIATE FEDERAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES, AND THAT THE
14 SECRETARY OF STATE SEND COPIES OF THIS RESOLUTION TO EACH
15 MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION.

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