

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 21

INTRODUCED BY FABREGA, MOORE, O'CONNELL, J. GUNDERSON, MEYER,
KENNY, RYAN, GILLIGAN, PISTORIA, O'KEEFE, HURWITZ, TROPILA

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING THE
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION AND THE ENERGY RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION TO STUDY THE SUN-TETON UNIT OF
THE MISSOURI RIVER BASIN PROJECT IN LIGHT OF PRESENT
ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND TECHNOLOGICAL CONDITIONS.

WHEREAS, the need for flood control and irrigation
development is critical for the continued growth of urban
community and agriculture in Montana and has been revealed
by severe spring floods and summer droughts; and

WHEREAS, the climatic and soil conditions of Cascade
and Teton counties are such that irrigated land produces a
high proportion of the total value of the crops; and

WHEREAS, the current plans for the Sun-Teton unit would
provide sufficient water to bring approximately 30,000 acres
of new land into irrigated production and provide a
guaranteed water supply to lands with adjudicated water
rights, land claiming an existing right since adjudication
of the Sun River, and land receiving water under permits
issued under "Montana Water Use Act", of land presently

irrigated but with inadequate water supplies; and

WHEREAS, the economy of Montana is enhanced by a more
stable farm income, and the stable farm income resulting
from this Sun-Teton unit would provide more predictable
investment conditions in the towns of Simms, Fort Shaw, Sun
River, Vaughn, Manchester, and Lower Sun River as well as
flood control for urban development; and

WHEREAS, the need exists for increased control of
riverflows during periods of heavy spring runoff which flood
the Sun River and its tributaries and have continuously
caused damage to farm land, irrigation, communication and
transportation facilities, urban communities, and other
improvements along the streams; recorded costs are over 24
million dollars to date and damages caused by the floods
would be much greater now than at the time of occurrence
because of increased development and higher property values;
and

WHEREAS, the Sun River is considered by many people to
be among the finest fishing streams in Montana, and in many
years very low flows during late summer months and high
turbid flows during spring months have limited fishing; and

WHEREAS, the construction of a dam and reservoir on the
Sun River as an element of the Sun-Teton unit will result in
excellent lake and stream fishing, and the proposed
development would enhance the overall fishery value of the

INTRODUCED BILL

1 area by greatly improving the streamflow patterns in the Sun
2 River; and

3 WHEREAS, the water stored as a result of the Sun-Teton
4 unit could be made available for industrial development, and
5 such development would be beneficial to the growth and
6 economy of Montana; and

7 WHEREAS, the hydroelectric potential of a dam on the
8 main stem of the Sun River could be utilized to help
9 alleviate the energy crisis faced by the United States and
10 to help defray the costs of the Sun-Teton unit; and

11 WHEREAS, a dependable supply of stored water would be
12 beneficial to the research and development associated with
13 the magnetohydrodynamic project being conducted in Montana;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, it is becoming apparent that if Montanans do
16 not plan to use Montana water for their own benefit, they
17 will lose the water rights to the demands of downstream
18 users in other states where water is appropriated to a
19 beneficial use, prior in time; and

20 WHEREAS, the Sun-Teton unit would benefit the people of
21 Montana and was considered by the Bureau of Reclamation and
22 Department of the Interior prior to the development of the
23 energy crisis and the present depressed economy.

24
25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE

1 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

2 That the Senate and House of Representatives of the
3 State of Montana request the Bureau of Reclamation and the
4 Energy Research and Development Administration to make an
5 immediate update study on the Sun-Teton unit of the Missouri
6 River Basin Project in light of present economic, social,
7 and technological conditions.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State is
9 instructed to send a copy of this resolution to each member
10 of the Montana Congressional Delegation, the Secretary of
11 the Interior, the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for
12 Land and Water Resources, the Director of the Bureau of
13 Reclamation, the Regional Director of the Upper Missouri
14 Regional Field Office of the Bureau of Reclamation, the
15 Administrator of the Energy Research and Development
16 Administration, and the County Commissioners of Cascade and
17 Teton counties.

-End-

SECOND READING

MISSING

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WHEREAS, the need for flood control and irrigation development is critical for the continued growth of urban community and agriculture in Montana and has been revealed by severe spring floods and summer droughts; and

WHEREAS, the climatic and soil conditions of Cascade and Teton counties are such that irrigated land produces a high proportion of the total value of the crops; and

WHEREAS, the current plans for the Sun-Teton unit would provide sufficient water to bring approximately 30,000 acres of new land into irrigated production and provide a guaranteed water supply to lands with adjudicated water rights, land claiming an existing right since adjudication of the Sun River, and land receiving water under permits issued under "Montana Water Use Act", of land presently

irrigated but with inadequate water supplies; and

WHEREAS, the economy of Montana is enhanced by a more stable farm income, and the stable farm income resulting from this Sun-Teton unit would provide more predictable investment conditions in the towns of Simms, Fort Shaw, Sun River, Vaughn, Manchester, and Lower Sun River as well as flood control for urban development; and

WHEREAS, the need exists for increased control of riverflows during periods of heavy spring runoff which flood the Sun River and its tributaries and have continuously caused damage to farm land, irrigation, communication and transportation facilities, urban communities, and other improvements along the streams; recorded costs are over 24 million dollars to date and damages caused by the floods would be much greater now than at the time of occurrence because of increased development and higher property values; and

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WHEREAS, the construction of a dam and reservoir on the Sun River as an element of the Sun-Teton unit will result in excellent lake and stream fishing, and the proposed development would enhance the overall fishery value of the

THIRD READING

1 area by greatly improving the streamflow patterns in the Sun
2 River; and

3 WHEREAS, the water stored as a result of the Sun-Teton
4 unit could be made available for industrial development, and
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6 economy of Montana; and

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8 main stem of the Sun River could be utilized to help
9 alleviate the energy crisis faced by the United States and
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16 not plan to use Montana water for their own benefit, they
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19 beneficial use, prior in time; and

20 WHEREAS, the Sun-Teton unit would benefit the people of
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14 Regional Field Office of the Bureau of Reclamation, the
15 Administrator of the Energy Research and Development
16 Administration, and the County Commissioners of Cascade and
17 Teton counties.

-End-

March 15, 1977

SENATE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

That House Joint Resolution No. 21 be amended as follows:

1. Amend page 1, lines 20 through line 1 on page 2.
Following: "provide"
Strike: lines 20 through line 1 on page 2 in their entirety
Insert: "protection for existing water rights as well as
additional water storage for crop production; and"

2. Amend page 3, lines 7 through 14.
Following: line 6
Strike: lines 7 through 14 in their entirety

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13 development is critical for the continued growth of urban
14 community and agriculture in Montana and has been revealed
15 by severe spring floods and summer droughts; and

16 WHEREAS, the climatic and soil conditions of Cascade
17 and Teton counties are such that irrigated land produces a
18 high proportion of the total value of the crops; and

19 WHEREAS, the current plans for the Sun-Teton unit would
20 provide sufficient water to bring approximately 30,000 acres
21 of new land into irrigated production and provide a
22 guaranteed water supply to lands with adjudicated water
23 rights and claiming an existing right since adjudication
24 of the Sun River, and land receiving water under permits
25 issued under Montana Water Use Act, of land presently

1 irrigated but with inadequate water supplies; and PROTECTION
2 FOR EXISTING WATER RIGHTS AS WELL AS ADDITIONAL WATER
3 STORAGE FOR CROP PRODUCTION; AND

4 WHEREAS, the economy of Montana is enhanced by a more
5 stable farm income, and the stable farm income resulting
6 from this Sun-Teton unit would provide more predictable
7 investment conditions in the towns of Simms, Fort Shaw, Sun
8 River, Vaughn, Manchester, and Lower Sun River as well as
9 flood control for urban development; and

10 WHEREAS, the need exists for increased control of
11 riverflows during periods of heavy spring runoff which flood
12 the Sun River and its tributaries and have continuously
13 caused damage to farm land, irrigation, communication and
14 transportation facilities, urban communities, and other
15 improvements along the streams; recorded costs are over 24
16 million dollars to date and damages caused by the floods
17 would be much greater now than at the time of occurrence
18 because of increased development and higher property values;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, the Sun River is considered by many people to
21 be among the finest fishing streams in Montana, and in many
22 years very low flows during late summer months and high
23 turbid flows during spring months have limited fishing; and

24 WHEREAS, the construction of a dam and reservoir on the
25 Sun River as an element of the Sun-Teton unit will result in

1 excellent lake and stream fishing, and the proposed
 2 development would enhance the overall fishery value of the
 3 area by greatly improving the streamflow patterns in the Sun
 4 River; and

5 WHEREAS, the water stored as a result of the Sun-Teton
 6 unit could be made available for industrial development, and
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 8 economy of Montana; and

9 ~~WHEREAS, the hydroelectric potential of a dam on the~~
 10 ~~main stem of the Sun River could be utilized to help~~
 11 ~~alleviate the energy crisis faced by the United States and~~
 12 ~~to help defray the costs of the Sun-Teton unit; and~~

13 ~~WHEREAS, a dependable supply of stored water would be~~
 14 ~~beneficial to the research and development associated with~~
 15 ~~the magnetohydrodynamic project being conducted in Montana;~~
 16 ~~and~~

17 WHEREAS, it is becoming apparent that if Montanans do
 18 not plan to use Montana water for their own benefit, they
 19 will lose the water rights to the demands of downstream
 20 users in other states where water is appropriated to a
 21 beneficial use, prior in time; and

22 WHEREAS, the Sun-Teton unit would benefit the people of
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 16 Regional Field Office of the Bureau of Reclamation, the
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 19 Teton counties.

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25 ~~under permits issued under "Montana Water Use Act" of land~~

1 ~~presently irrigated but with inadequate water supplies; and~~
2 ~~PROTECTION FOR EXISTING WATER RIGHTS AS WELL AS ADDITIONAL~~
3 ~~WATER STORAGE FOR CROP PRODUCTION; AND SUFFICIENT WATER TO~~
4 ~~BRING APPROXIMATELY 30,000 SEVERAL THOUSAND ACRES OF NEW~~
5 ~~LAND INTO IRRIGATED PRODUCTION AND PROVIDE A GUARANTEED MORE~~
6 ~~DEPENDABLE WATER SUPPLY TO LANDS WITH ADJUDICATED WATER~~
7 ~~RIGHTS, LAND CLAIMING AN EXISTING RIGHT SINCE ADJUDICATION~~
8 ~~OF THE SUN RIVER, AND LAND RECEIVING WATER UNDER PERMITS~~
9 ~~ISSUED UNDER "MONTANA WATER USE ACT", OF LAND PRESENTLY~~
10 ~~IRRIGATED BUT WITH INADEQUATE WATER SUPPLIES; AND~~

11 WHEREAS, the economy of Montana is enhanced by a more
12 stable farm income, and the stable farm income resulting
13 from this Sun-Teton unit would provide more predictable
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FINAL PRINTING

ADOPTED BY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
AND SENATE

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2 WHEREAS, the Sun River is considered by many people to
3 be among the finest fishing streams in Montana, and in many
4 years very low flows during late summer months and high
5 turbid flows during spring months have limited fishing; and

6 WHEREAS, the construction of a dam and reservoir on the
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21 ~~beneficial to the research and development associated with~~
22 ~~the magnetohydrodynamic project being conducted in Montana;~~
23 ~~and~~

24 WHEREAS, THE HYDROELECTRIC POTENTIAL OF A DAM ON THE
25 MAIN STEM OF THE SUN RIVER COULD BE UTILIZED TO HELP

1 ALLEVIATE THE ENERGY CRISIS FACED BY THE UNITED STATES AND
2 TO HELP DEFRAY THE COSTS OF THE SUN-TETON UNIT; AND

3 WHEREAS, A DEPENDABLE SUPPLY OF STORED WATER WOULD BE
4 BENEFICIAL TO THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH
5 THE MAGNETOHYDRODYNAMIC PROJECT BEING CONDUCTED IN MONTANA;
6 AND

7 WHEREAS, it is becoming apparent that if Montanans do
8 not plan to use Montana water for their own benefit, they
9 will lose the water rights to the demands of downstream
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