

House Joint Resolution 53

In The House

March 18, 1981

Introduced and referred
to Select Committee on Water.

April 23, 1981

Died in Committee.

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 53

2 INTRODUCED BY *Turrage*

3
4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA ENCOURAGING THE
6 SECRETARY OF INTERIOR TO TAKE STEPS TO TURN OVER THE
7 MANAGEMENT OF THE MISSION, FLATHEAD, AND JOCKO IRRIGATION
8 DISTRICTS TO A LOCAL ENTITY.

9
10 WHEREAS, the Mission, Flathead, and Jocko Irrigation
11 Districts in Lake County, Montana are being operated under a
12 Joint board of Control; and

13 WHEREAS, creation of the Joint Board of Control has
14 placed the districts in a position to be able to manage
15 their own affairs; and

16 WHEREAS, the repayment contracts made between the
17 United States and the irrigation districts specified that
18 the management of the project affairs would be put in the
19 hands of the districts when repayment had reached a certain
20 level; and

21 WHEREAS, repayment has reached the level specified in
22 the contracts; and

23 WHEREAS, the districts have petitioned and there is
24 pending a petition to the Secretary of the Interior seeking
25 a transfer of the operation of the projects as provided for

1 in the contracts; and

2 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Montana
3 believes that the operation of the districts can be more
4 efficiently and readily accomplished if the project is
5 administered locally by elected Commissioners who form the
6 Joint Board of Control and whose responsibilities flow
7 directly to the users of the districts' services.

8
9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE
10 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

11 That the Montana Legislature urges the Secretary of the
12 Interior to take steps as soon as possible to cause to be
13 fully confirmed and guaranteed to the districts their
14 appropriate water rights and thereafter turn the management
15 of the project affairs of the Mission, Flathead, and Jocko
16 Irrigation Districts over to the districts as provided in
17 the repayment contracts.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State
19 send a copy of this resolution to the Honorable James Watt,
20 Secretary of the Interior of the United States.

-End-

-2- INTRODUCED BILL
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