

1 House JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14
 2 INTRODUCED BY Donaldson Gilbert Sabye
 3 Hammond Ulbecking Staffman Maryjane Seaman

4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
 5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING THE
 6 MONTANA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO INITIATE AN AMENDMENT TO
 7 THE RECLAMATION REFORM ACT OF 1982 TO PROVIDE A MORE
 8 EQUITABLE ACREAGE LIMITATION FOR MONTANA LAND SERVED BY A
 9 FEDERAL WATER PROJECT.

11 WHEREAS, the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982, Public Law
 12 97-293, was passed by the Congress of the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, under that act an increased acreage limitation
 14 of 960 acres is available for federal water projects, with
 15 an equivalency factor to increase acreages on land with
 16 lower productive and economic potential due to topography,
 17 soil characteristics, length of growing season, elevation,
 18 adequacy of water supply, and crop adaptability; and

19 WHEREAS, the House-Senate Conference Committee
 20 addressed development of an equivalency factor by the
 21 Secretary of the Interior not limited to an existing land
 22 classification system; and

23 WHEREAS, land in Montana, with its short growing
 24 seasons, long distance to markets, and limited crop choices
 25 has dramatically less economic potential per acre than land

1 in some other areas served by federal water projects; and

2 WHEREAS, the equivalency factor was intended to
 3 equalize this difference by increasing the acreage limit for
 4 lands with less productive and economic potential; and

5 WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Interior has adopted a
 6 method that determines equivalency within a district based
 7 on land classification; and

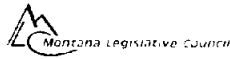
8 WHEREAS, this determination does not address Montana's
 9 limitations due to topography, soil characteristics, length
 10 of growing season, elevation, adequacy of water supply, and
 11 crop adaptability; and

12 WHEREAS, the proposed equivalency determination would
 13 be expensive for a Montana federal water project user on a
 14 per-acre basis with no relief from the acreage limitation.

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

18 (1) That the Montana Congressional Delegation be urged
 19 to initiate an amendment to the Reclamation Reform Act of
 20 1982 to provide a more equitable acreage limitation
 21 recognizing an equivalency factor based on topography, soil
 22 characteristics, length of growing season, elevation,
 23 adequacy of water supply, and crop adaptability.

24 (2) That the equivalency factor for Montana be:
 25 (a) 2 acres allowed for each class I acre;



- 1 (b) 3 acres allowed for each class II acre; and
2 (c) 4 acres allowed for each class III acre.
3 (3) That copies of this resolution be sent by the
4 Secretary of State to each member of the Montana
5 Congressional Delegation.

-End-

APPROVED BY COMMITTEE
ON AGRICULTURE LIVESTOCK
& IRRIGATION

1 House JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14
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3 Hammond Wheeler Raffan Meyer Severson

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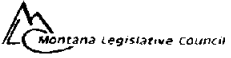
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 3 Hammond Uecking Hoffman Mergers Seiver
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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14

INTRODUCED BY DONALDSON, GILBERT, SCHYE, HOFMAN
HAMMOND, WEEDING, HOFFMAN, MEYERS, SEVERSON

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WHEREAS, the House-Senate Conference Committee addressed development of an equivalency factor by the Secretary of the Interior not limited to an existing land classification system; and

WHEREAS, land in Montana, with its short growing seasons, long distance to markets, and limited crop choices

has dramatically less economic potential per acre than land in some other areas served by federal water projects; and

WHEREAS, the equivalency factor was intended to equalize this difference by increasing the acreage limit for lands with less productive and economic potential; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Interior has adopted a method that determines equivalency within a district based on land classification; and

WHEREAS, this determination does not address Montana's limitations due to topography, soil characteristics, length of growing season, elevation, adequacy of water supply, and crop adaptability; and

WHEREAS, the proposed equivalency determination would be expensive for a Montana federal water project user on a per-acre basis with no relief from the acreage limitation.

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

(1) That the Montana Congressional Delegation be urged to initiate an amendment to the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 to provide a more equitable acreage limitation recognizing an equivalency factor based on topography, soil characteristics, length of growing season, elevation, adequacy of water supply, and crop adaptability.

(2) That the equivalency factor for Montana be:



- 1 (a) 2 acres allowed for each class I acre;
- 2 (b) 3 acres allowed for each class II acre; and
- 3 (c) 4 acres allowed for each class III acre.
- 4 (3) That copies of this resolution be sent by the
- 5 Secretary of State to each member of the Montana
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