

IN THE HOUSE

APRIL 23, 1987

RECEIVED FROM SENATE.

SENT TO ENROLLING.

1 House JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 59
 2 INTRODUCED BY ~~James Harold Miller M Williams~~
 3 *Bob Wimbush*

4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
 5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA DIRECTING THE
 6 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION, IN
 7 CONJUNCTION WITH AN APPROPRIATE YELLOWSTONE COUNTY ENTITY,
 8 TO REQUEST THE U. S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION AND OTHER
 9 APPROPRIATE AGENCIES TO REEVALUATE THE FEASIBILITY OF
 10 DEVELOPING THE CALAMITY JANE RESERVOIR AND TO EVALUATE OTHER
 11 RESERVOIR SITES NEAR BILLINGS FOR RECREATION POTENTIAL; AND
 12 DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO THE 51ST
 13 LEGISLATURE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A RESERVOIR IF THE RESERVOIR
 14 IS DETERMINED TO BE FEASIBLE AND COST EFFECTIVE.

15
 16 WHEREAS, the Billings area needs additional reservoir
 17 water for various uses, including recreation; and

18 WHEREAS, in the late 1970s, two studies were conducted
 19 by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Montana Department
 20 of Natural Resources and Conservation that examined the
 21 feasibility of constructing a reservoir on upper Canyon
 22 Creek in Yellowstone County; and

23 WHEREAS, this reservoir, known as Calamity Jane
 24 Reservoir, would provide needed recreational benefits to
 25 area residents and tourists; and

1 WHEREAS, the Calamity Jane Reservoir would also provide
 2 a source of water for the City of Billings and has potential
 3 benefits as a source of hydroelectricity, thus diversifying
 4 Montana's energy sources; and

5 WHEREAS, the site for the Calamity Jane Reservoir is an
 6 excellent site for a reservoir, having natural water on the
 7 South Fork of Canyon Creek and having the potential to be a
 8 major waterfowl habitat; and

9 WHEREAS, the feasibility studies are outdated and in
 10 need of further analysis in light of current economic
 11 conditions that may favor development in the near future;
 12 and

13 WHEREAS, a study that uses current economic conditions
 14 in thoroughly evaluating the recreational, water supply,
 15 wildlife, and possible hydropower benefits associated with
 16 the development of the reservoir could indicate a very
 17 attractive project for federal or private funding; and

18 WHEREAS, alternate sites in the Billings area have not
 19 been evaluated for reservoir potential emphasizing
 20 recreation; and

21 WHEREAS, the alternate sites could provide recreational
 22 benefits at a lower overall project cost; and

23 WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress has recently enacted two
 24 major omnibus bills for water projects, demonstrating a
 25 renewed commitment to development of the nation's water



-2- INTRODUCED BILL
 HJR-59

1 resources; and

2 WHEREAS, there is a need for a state agency, in
3 conjunction with an appropriate entity representing
4 community interests within Yellowstone County, to lead the
5 effort to encourage the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to
6 further examine the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of
7 Calamity Jane Reservoir and other reservoir sites near
8 Billings; and

9 WHEREAS, there is a need for a lead agency to assess
10 state, federal, and private funding sources and to develop a
11 proposal for funding an appropriate reservoir.

12
13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE
14 OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

15 (1) That the Department of Natural Resources and
16 Conservation, in conjunction with an appropriate entity
17 representing community interests in Yellowstone County,
18 request that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation reevaluate the
19 feasibility and cost effectiveness of developing the
20 Calamity Jane Reservoir in Yellowstone County.

21 (2) That the Department and the Yellowstone County
22 entity also request that the Bureau of Reclamation or other
23 appropriate state or federal agencies evaluate alternate
24 sites within approximately 30 miles of Billings for
25 recreation potential and assess their feasibility and cost

1 effectiveness.

2 (3) That the Department and the Yellowstone County
3 entity request that the Bureau of Reclamation or other
4 appropriate agencies use current economic conditions in
5 assessing the full range of benefits associated with the
6 Calamity Jane Reservoir and other alternate sites.

7 (4) That the Department and other state and local
8 agencies cooperate with the evaluating agencies in providing
9 information necessary for the studies.

10 (5) That the Department and the Yellowstone County
11 entity request that the evaluating agencies complete their
12 evaluation and submit their findings to the 51st Legislature
13 by December 15, 1988.

14 (6) That the Department submit a proposal to the 51st
15 Legislature by December 15, 1988, for funding development of
16 a reservoir site if the agency evaluations determine that
17 the reservoir would be feasible and cost effective.

-End-

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NATURAL RESOURCES

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19 water for various uses, including recreation; and

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1 Reservoir, would provide needed recreational benefits to
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3 WHEREAS, the Calamity Jane Reservoir would also provide
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5 benefits as a source of hydroelectricity, thus diversifying
6 Montana's energy sources; and

7 WHEREAS, the site for the Calamity Jane Reservoir is an
8 excellent site for a reservoir, having natural water on the
9 South Fork of Canyon Creek and having the potential to be a
10 major waterfowl habitat; and

11 WHEREAS, the feasibility studies are outdated and in
12 need of further analysis in light of current economic
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15 WHEREAS, a study that uses current economic conditions
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19 attractive project for federal or private funding; and

20 WHEREAS, alternate sites in the Billings area have not
21 been evaluated for reservoir potential emphasizing
22 recreation; and

23 WHEREAS, the alternate sites could provide recreational
24 AND OTHER benefits at a lower overall project cost; and

25 WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress has recently enacted two

1 major omnibus bills for water projects, demonstrating a
2 renewed commitment to development of the nation's water
3 resources; and

4 WHEREAS, there is a need for a state agency, in
5 conjunction with an appropriate entity representing
6 community interests ~~within-Yellowstone-County~~, to lead the
7 effort to encourage the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to
8 further examine the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of
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23 (2) That the Department and the ~~Yellowstone--County~~
24 COMMUNITY entity also request that the Bureau of Reclamation
25 or other appropriate state or federal agencies evaluate

1 alternate sites within approximately 30 miles of Billings
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