

2001 Assembly Resolution 56

## **ENGROSSED RESOLUTION**

Relating to: urging authorization of funding for modernization of lock and dam infrastructure on the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers' Inland Waterways Transportation System.

Whereas, the state of Wisconsin borders or contains over 360 miles of the upper Mississippi River and 11 navigation locks and dams along those borders; and

Whereas, many of Wisconsin's locks and dams are more than 60 years old and only 600 feet long, making them unable to accommodate modern barge tows of 1,200 feet long, nearly tripling locking times and causing lengthy delays and ultimately increasing shipping costs; and

Whereas, the use of 1,200-foot locks has been proven nationwide as the best method of improving efficiency, reducing congestion, and modernizing the inland waterways; and

Whereas, the construction of the lock and dam system has spurred economic growth and a higher standard of living in the Mississippi and Illinois river basin, and today supplies more than 300,000,000 tons of the nation's cargo, supporting more than 400,000 jobs, including 90,000 in manufacturing; and

Whereas, more than 60% of American agricultural exports, including corn, wheat, and soybeans, are shipped down the Mississippi and Illinois rivers on the way to foreign markets, and

Whereas, Wisconsin farmers, producers, and consumers rely on efficient transportation to remain competitive in a global economy, and efficiencies in river transport offset higher production costs compared to those incurred by foreign competitors; and

Whereas, the upper Mississippi and Illinois rivers lock and dam system saves our nation more than \$1.5 billion in higher transportation costs each year, and failing to construct 1,200-foot locks will cause farmers to use more expensive alternative modes of transportation, including trucks and trains; and

Whereas, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, congestion along the upper Mississippi and Illinois rivers is costing Wisconsin and other producers and consumers in the basin \$98,000,000 per year in higher transportation costs; and

Whereas, river transportation is the most environmentally friendly form of transporting goods and commodities, creating almost no noise pollution and emitting 35% to 60% fewer pollutants than either trucks or trains, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and

## BILL HISTORY FOR ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 56 (LRB -4985)

Relating to: urging authorization of funding for modernization of lock and dam infrastructure on the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers' Inland Waterways Transportation System.

2002

02			
03-04.	A.	Introduced by Representatives Freese, Gronemus, Loeffelholz, Musser, Hahn, Hoven and Sykora.	
03-04.	A.	Read and referred to committee on Rules	714
03-04.	A.	Placed on calendar 3-6-2002 by committee on Rules.	. /17
03–07.	A.	Assembly amendment 1 offered by Representatives Shilling, Krug and Plouff (LRB a1515)	742
03 07.	A.	Point of order that Assembly amendment 1 not germane well taken	743
03-07.	A.	Decision of the Chair appealed	. 173 742
03-07.	A.	Decision of the Chair upheld, Ayes 58, Noes 41	. 143 743
03–07.	A.	Assembly amendment 2 offered by Representatives Johnsrud, Huebsch and Shilling (LRB a1529)	. 173 742
03–07.	A.	Assembly amendment 2 laid on table, Ayes 50, Noes 49	. 143 712
03-07.	A.	Refused to take Assembly amendment 2 from table, Ayes 44, Noes 55	. 143 742
0307.	A.	Adopted, Ayes 59, Noes 40	. 143
			. 143

2001 Resolution On "Certificate" Form ENGROSS SIMPLE RES 01en A Res ADOPTED DOCUMENTS: 01- 49851 Orig \_\_ SubAmdt Amendments to above (if none, write "NONE"): Corrections - show date (if none, write "NONE"): Topic **ELECTRONIC PROCEDURE:** Follow automatic or manual enrolling procedures in TEXT 2000 Reference Guide, Document Specific Procedures, Ch. 20, Engrossing and Enrolling Make 24 copies of ENGROSSED RESOLUTION and distribute copies. DISTRIBUTION: LRB: REVISOR OF STATUTES: 1 copy Drafting file ..... 1 copy HOUSE OF ORGIN: Legislative editors ...... 1 copy each Secretary of State's envelope containing LPS file ...... 1 copy 4 copies plus newspaper notice Original and all remaining copies plus bill Index librarian ..... 1 copy jacket

## 2001 ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 56

March 4, 2002 – Introduced by Representatives Freese, Gronemus, Loeffelholz, Musser, Hahn, Hoven and Sykora. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1	Relating to: urging authorization of funding for modernization of lock and dam
2	infrastructure on the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers' Inland Waterways
3	Transportation System.
4	Whereas, the state of Wisconsin borders or contains over 360 miles of the upper
5	Mississippi River and 11 navigation locks and dams along those borders; and
6	Whereas, many of Wisconsin's locks and dams are more than 60 years old and
7	only 600 feet long, making them unable to accommodate modern barge tows of 1,200
8	feet long, nearly tripling locking times and causing lengthy delays and ultimately
9	increasing shipping costs; and
10	Whereas, the use of 1,200-foot locks has been proven nationwide as the best
11	method of improving efficiency, reducing congestion, and modernizing the inland
12	waterways; and
13	Whereas, the construction of the lock and dam system has spurred economic
14	growth and a higher standard of living in the Mississippi and Illinois river basin, and

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today supplies more than 300,000,000 tons of the nation's cargo, supporting more than 400,000 jobs, including 90,000 in manufacturing; and

Whereas, more than 60% of American agricultural exports, including corn, wheat, and soybeans, are shipped down the Mississippi and Illinois rivers on the way to foreign markets; and

Whereas, Wisconsin farmers, producers, and consumers rely on efficient transportation to remain competitive in a global economy, and efficiencies in river transport offset higher production costs compared to those incurred by foreign competitors; and

Whereas, the upper Mississippi and Illinois rivers lock and dam system saves our nation more than \$1.5 billion in higher transportation costs each year, and failing to construct 1,200–foot locks will cause farmers to use more expensive alternative modes of transportation, including trucks and trains, and

Whereas, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, congestion along the upper Mississippi and Illinois rivers is costing Wisconsin and other producers and consumers in the basin \$98,000,000 per year in higher transportation costs; and

Whereas, river transportation is the most environmentally friendly form of transporting goods and commodities, creating almost no noise pollution and emitting 35% to 60% fewer pollutants than either trucks or trains, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and

Whereas, moving away from river transport would add millions of trucks and railcars to our nation's infrastructure, adding air pollution, traffic congestion, and greater wear and tear on highways; and

Whereas, backwater lakes created by the lock and dam system provide breeding grounds for migratory waterfowl and fish; and

1	whereas, the lakes and 500 miles of wildlife refuge also support a
2	one-billion-dollar per year recreational industry, including hunting, fishing, and
3	tourism jobs; and
4	Whereas, upgrading the system of locks and dams on the upper Mississippi and
5	Illinois rivers will provide 3,000 construction and related jobs over a 15-year to
6	20-year period; and
7	Whereas, in 1999 the state of Wisconsin shipped 1,100,000 tons of commodities,
8	including grain, coal, chemicals, aggregates, and other products; and
9	Whereas, 3,900,000 tons of commodities, including grain, coal, chemicals,
10	aggregates, and other products, were shipped to, from, and within Wisconsin by
11	barge, representing \$313,000,000 in value; and
12	Whereas, shippers moving by barge in Wisconsin realized a savings of
13	approximately \$40,000,000 compared to other transportation modes; and
14	Whereas, Wisconsin docks shipped products by barge to 6 states and received
15	products from 11 states; and
16	Whereas, there are approximately 20 manufacturing facilities, terminals, and
17	docks on the waterways of Wisconsin, representing thousands of jobs in the state;
18	and
19	Whereas, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is conducting a collaborative
20	navigation study of the economic and environmental factors to be considered when
21	examining capital improvements to the upper Mississippi River system; and
22	Whereas, the navigation study will release initial results in a summer 2002
23	report; now, therefore, be it

	Resol	ved by the a	ssemb	ly, T	[h	at the	Wi	sconsin as	sembly formal	lly re	ecognizes
the	upper	Mississippi	River	as	a	river	of	statewide	significance	for	natural,
navigational, and recreational benefits; and, be it further											

Resolved, That the Wisconsin assembly recognizes the importance of timely modernization of the inland waterway transportation infrastructure to Wisconsin agriculture and industry in this state, the region, and the nation and, pending results of the navigation study, urges Congress to authorize funding to construct 1,200–foot locks on the upper Mississippi and Illinois river system; and, be it further

Resolved, That the assembly chief clerk shall transmit copies of this resolution to the president and secretary of the U.S. senate, the speaker and clerk of the U.S. house of representatives, the chair of the senate committee on commerce, science, and transportation, the chair of the house committee on transportation and infrastructure, and the members of the congressional delegation from this state.