

RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNORS AND TRIBES OF THE MISSOURI RIVER BASIN

PURPOSE

The purpose of this resolution is to protect and enhance the future of the Missouri River Basin by establishing the Missouri River Association of States and Tribes.

FINDINGS

The Governors of the signatory Missouri River Basin States and the Mni Sose Intertribal Water Rights Coalition jointly find and declare that:

The Missouri River is a valuable national and regional resource. Its ecological, economic, and cultural significance extends beyond its waters and shoreline communities. The region's prosperity and quality of life is dependent upon the river's continuing viability as a resource and economic engine for the States, Tribes, and the Nation.

The Basin States and Tribes, in partnership with the Federal government, share a continuing responsibility for the prudent use and management of the Missouri River System. While the Federal government's role is an important and long-standing one, the States and Tribes of the basin possess a unique obligation to manage the water resources of the basin in the interest of all citizens of the region.

The Basin States and Tribes have historically exercised leadership in promoting the collective stewardship of the resources of the Missouri River Basin. The rich heritage of interstate and intergovernmental collaboration, evidenced by the creation and maintenance of cooperative forums such as the Missouri River Basin Commission, the Missouri Basin States Association, and the Missouri River Basin Association, is the States' and Tribes' responsibility to nurture.

The relationship between maintaining a healthy economy and a healthy environment is becoming increasingly clear. Effective management of the Missouri River System will require enhanced collaboration among all units of government and the pursuit of unified economic and environmental policies.

RESOLVE

The Governors of the signatory Missouri River Basin States and the Mni Sose Intertribal Water Rights Coalition hereby jointly resolve that:

The Basin States and Tribes pledge their individual and collective support for the Missouri River Association of States and Tribes.

The purpose of the Missouri River Association of States and Tribes shall be to serve as a forum for the identification, discussion, and resolution of issues of concern to the basin states and tribes, including matters of interstate comity and matters of common concern that arise due to the actions and programs of the federal government, states, tribes, and other interests. This shall involve facilitating management of the natural resources of the Missouri River Basin including water resources, fish and wildlife, and consideration of the impacts to the economic, historical, cultural, and social resources among the basin states, tribes, and the federal government.

The Missouri River Association of States and Tribes shall provide a forum whereby the Governors and Tribes seek to unify the States' and Tribes' river-related policies and articulate their mutual concerns and shared vision for management of the Missouri River Basin.

Where agreement can be reached on how an issue should be resolved, the Missouri River Association of States and Tribes may take a position and advocate that position to those in a position to resolve the issue.

The Missouri River Association of States and Tribes shall provide a forum to foster communication and information exchange among the member States, Tribes, and various other governmental units and the private sector on water and related natural resources matters.

The Missouri River Association of States and Tribes shall provide assistance in the coordination of activities of regional significance being conducted by various governmental units and private interests responsible for water and related natural resources management within the Missouri River Basin.

Each of the States and Tribes that join the Missouri River Association of States and Tribes shall be represented in the manner set forth in the Bylaws of the Missouri River Association of States and Tribes. Those individuals shall be responsible for ensuring that all appropriate agencies, boards, commissions, and constituencies of the state are engaged in the deliberations and activities of the Missouri River Association of States and Tribes.

The President of the United States is hereby requested to ensure that all Federal departments and agencies with authorities related to the Missouri River System cooperate with the Missouri River Association of States and Tribes and utilize that forum for coordination of the their river-related policies and programs with the Basin States and Tribes.

The Missouri River Association of States and Tribes shall be governed by the Bylaws adopted by the Board of Directors of the Association.

Nothing in this Resolution or in the conduct of the affairs of the Missouri River Association of States and Tribes shall abrogate the rights and responsibilities of each State and Tribe to manage its water, fish and wildlife, and related land resources. The Missouri River Association of States and Tribes shall undertake no activities that would be inconsistent with the Compact Clause or the Interstate Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution.

Signature Page for the Resolution forming the Missouri River
Association of States and Tribes (MoRAST)



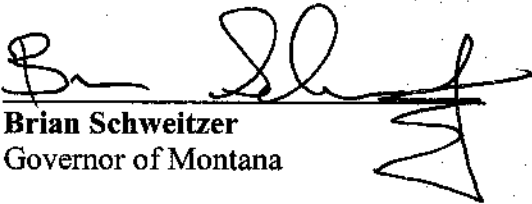
Tom Vilsack
Governor of Iowa

June 2, 2006
Date



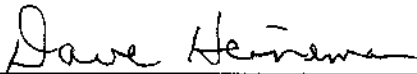
Kathleen Sebelius
Governor of Kansas

June 12, 2006
Date



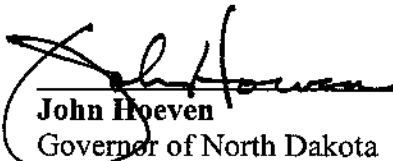
Brian Schweitzer
Governor of Montana

June 16, 2006
Date



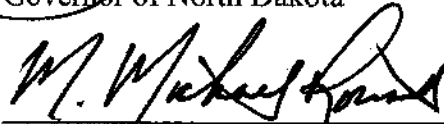
Dave Heineman
Governor of Nebraska

June 21, 2006
Date



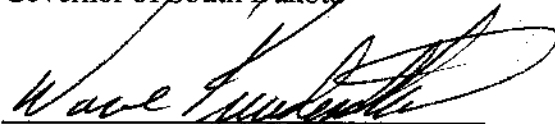
John Hoeven
Governor of North Dakota

June 27, 2006
Date



M. Michael Rounds
Governor of South Dakota

May 23, 2006
Date



David Freudenthal
Governor of Wyoming

6/30/06
Date



Antoine Provost
President, Mni Sose Intertribal Water
Rights Coalition

7/11/06
Date