

AMENDMENT FOR PRINTED RESOLUTION

c1025ta

\_\_\_\_\_ moved that HCR 1025 be amended as follows:

On the printed resolution, delete everything after the first WHEREAS, and insert:

"South Dakota's local governments have a significant interest in protecting the public safety, health, and welfare of their citizens and in protecting economic stability and the property tax base that funds the services required for their communities. Local government units have statutory authority over various elements of land-use development, zoning, and the subdivision of property, which directly affect local growth and economic development; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service, have developed a draft environmental impact statement and land protection plan for the proposed Niobrara Confluence and Ponca Bluffs Conservation Areas along the Missouri River in northeastern Nebraska and southeastern South Dakota to conserve wildlife habitat and increase recreational opportunities, in addition to other purposes. The EIS and land protection plan describe and evaluate four alternative plans for managing wildlife, habitat, recreational access, and the protection of historic sites; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Niobrara Confluence and Ponca Bluffs Conservation Areas directly impact local government tax bases and the ability of local governments to provide law enforcement and other basic services; and

WHEREAS, the governing bodies of Union County in South Dakota, and Boyd, Dixon, and Knox counties in Nebraska have adopted resolutions opposing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Land Protection Plan, Niobrara Confluence and Ponca Bluffs Conservation Areas, proposed by the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and indicated their support for "Alternative A - No Action" for the land protection plan; and

WHEREAS, in the current era of high federal deficits, the projected costs of this project may not be justified, nor would there be satisfactory benefits to U.S. taxpayers in return for the federal outlays required to fund and maintain the proposed project area. The projected land costs for the subject conservation area are \$336 million for easement (112,000 acres) and fee title acquisition (28,000 acres) costs. Additionally, \$2 million in startup costs is projected with annual operations and maintenance costs projected at \$840,000; and

WHEREAS, enrolling 112,000 acres into easements and the federal acquisition of 28,000 acres for this proposed area would have adverse economic impacts on local businesses, rural towns, agricultural land prices, and farm and ranch operations; and

WHEREAS, significant protection for the proposed area is already provided through ongoing conservation easement initiatives by public entities such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and nongovernmental organizations such as Northern Prairie Land Trust and the Nature Conservancy:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Eighty-Ninth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the South Dakota Legislature does not support the proposed Niobrara Confluence and Ponca Bluffs Conservation Areas along the Missouri River in northeastern Nebraska and southeastern South Dakota and urges

the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to select "Alternative A - No Action" for the land protection plan."

AMENDMENT FOR PRINTED RESOLUTION

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\_\_\_\_\_ moved that the Title to HCR 1025 be amended as follows:

On page 1, line 1, of the printed resolution, delete everything after "," and insert "Requesting the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to select "Alternative A - No Action" as the land protection plan for the proposed Niobrara Confluence and Ponca Bluffs Conservation Areas in southeastern South Dakota and northeastern Nebraska."

On page 1, delete line 2.