

State of Arizona
Senate
Forty-fifth Legislature
First Regular Session
2001

SCM 1002

Introduced by
Senators Guenther, Bowers, Bennett; Representatives Carruthers, Cannell:
Senator Arzberger

A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL

URGING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO OPPOSE ANY EFFORT TO BREACH GLEN
CANYON DAM OR TO DRAIN LAKE POWELL.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 To the Congress of the United States:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, Glen Canyon Dam was constructed in order to realize the
4 promises of the 1922 Colorado River Compact; and

5 Whereas, the existence of Glen Canyon Dam and Lake Powell allows the
6 seven Colorado River Basin states to share and cooperatively plan for the
7 beneficial use of the waters of the Colorado River for the citizens of those
8 respective states; and

9 Whereas, the waters of Lake Powell provide protection against drought
10 in the Colorado River system and increase the availability of "surplus
11 water", that serves a variety of beneficial downstream uses; and

12 Whereas, draining Lake Powell would cause more frequent and increased
13 flows into Mexico and potentially the Gulf of California that would be lost
14 to beneficial consumptive use in the United States; and

15 Whereas, Lake Powell provides forty per cent of the water storage
16 capability in the Colorado River system for the citizens of the seven
17 Colorado River Basin states; and

18 Whereas, Glen Canyon Dam and Lake Powell provide electricity for more
19 than one million households in the Colorado River Basin states; and

20 Whereas, the Navajo Nation is concerned that the breaching of Glen
21 Canyon Dam and the draining of Lake Powell would wreak disaster on the
22 economic and social welfare of the Navajo Nation and would detrimentally and
23 fundamentally alter the water preservation, delivery and supply system
24 crafted by many decades of planning; and

25 Whereas, the Hopi Tribe does not believe that removing Glen Canyon Dam
26 and attempting to restore the rivercourse is a viable or realistic
27 option. Rather, the Hopi people encourage wise management and operation of
28 the dam to protect their cultural and natural resources; and

29 Whereas, more than three million people visit Glen Canyon Dam and Lake
30 Powell annually and enjoy the lake's recreational amenities and the world
31 renowned trout fishery below the dam; and

32 Whereas, the construction of Glen Canyon Dam has resulted in a rich
33 riparian habitat below the dam through the Grand Canyon that did not
34 previously exist.

35 Wherefore your memorialist, the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of
36 Representatives concurring, prays:

37 1. That the Members of Congress recognize and appreciate the water,
38 power, recreational and environmental benefits resulting from the
39 construction of Glen Canyon Dam and the filling of Lake Powell and the
40 ongoing benefits to the citizens of the State of Arizona and the other
41 Colorado River Basin states that result from the existence of Lake Powell.

42 2. That the Members of Congress oppose any effort to breach or remove
43 Glen Canyon Dam or to drain Lake Powell.

1 3. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies
2 of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of
3 the United States House of Representatives, each Member of Congress from the
4 State of Arizona and the legislative leaderships of the States of California,
5 Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.