

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY & WATER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AMENDMENTS TO H.C.R. 2046
(Reference to printed resolution)

Amendment instruction key:

[GREEN UNDERLINING IN BRACKETS] indicates text added to statute or previously enacted session law.

[Green underlining in brackets] indicates text added to new session law or text restoring existing law.

~~[GREEN STRIKEOUT IN BRACKETS]~~ indicates new text removed from statute or previously enacted session law.

~~[Green strikeout in brackets]~~ indicates text removed from existing statute, previously enacted session law or new session law.

<<Green carets>> indicate a section added to the bill.

~~<<Green strikeout in carets>>~~ indicates a section removed from the bill.

1 The resolution as proposed to be amended is reprinted as follows:

2 Whereas, the Colorado River system has experienced declines in
3 annual inflow from runoff; and

4 Whereas, this reduction in annual inflow has reduced water supplies
5 for people, agriculture and businesses; and

6 Whereas, the causes of the declines are historic drought,
7 evapotranspiration and salt cedars; and

8 Whereas, the Colorado River Basin has been in a drought since 2000,
9 resulting in decreased precipitation in the Upper Colorado River Basin
10 watersheds and tributaries that feed the main stem of the Colorado
11 River; and

12 Whereas, public land managers have allowed forests to grow
13 unnaturally, becoming clogged with far too many trees; and

14 Whereas, water evaporates from the trees before ever reaching the
15 river; and

16 Whereas, the United States Bureau of Reclamation estimates that the
17 Colorado River loses almost 4 million acre-feet of water per year to
18 evapotranspiration. Arizona's share of the Colorado River is only 2.8
19 million acre-feet; and

20 Whereas, state and federal forest mismanagement has allowed this
21 evapotranspiration to increase, reducing this state's gains in water
22 conservation. More needs to be done to address the overgrown forests in
23 the Colorado River watershed; and

24 Whereas, the salt cedar tree, also known as the tamarisk, was
25 brought to the United States in the 1800s as an ornamental plant. It is
26 now listed as an invasive species by the United States Department of
27 Agriculture; and

1 Whereas, this invasive plant out-competes native cottonwood,
2 mesquite and willow, altering the ecology and hydrology of native systems.
3 One tree can drink more than 200 gallons of water per day; and

4 Whereas, salt cedar trees have spread across virtually every river
5 system in half of the United States, consuming unfathomable amounts of
6 water; and

7 Whereas, salt cedars now cover nearly two million acres of river
8 banks; and

9 Whereas, salt cedars often grow in stands of over 3,000 trees per
10 acre, constituting nearly 672 acre-feet of water consumed per acre per
11 year; and

12 Whereas, salt cedars remain one of the most difficult of all
13 nonnative species to control and are perhaps the nation's most insidious
14 water problem. Eradicating them from American rivers would constitute one
15 of the largest water projects in history; and

16 Whereas, in 2003 and 2006, Congress gave over \$50 million to
17 research universities to conduct studies and to nonprofit organizations to
18 conduct demonstration projects, yet salt cedars still thrive; and

19 Whereas, organizations have raised awareness and made progress in
20 organizing eradication efforts but they are woefully underfunded, raising
21 less than \$4 million per year and restoring less than 2,000 acres per
22 year. More needs to be done to address and eradicate salt cedars from the
23 American West.

24 Therefore

25 The resolution as proposed to be amended is reprinted as follows:

26 1. That consumption is not the problem causing reduction of
27 Colorado River water.

28 2. That mismanagement of overgrown and water-depleting plants in
29 American watersheds reduces annual flows in the Colorado River.

30 3. That the Members of the Legislature determine that until the
31 principal causes of the limited Colorado River water are addressed, any
32 proactive conservation efforts or investments that state or private
33 organizations make will be in vain because the gains will be consumed by
34 the additional proliferation of forest stands and salt cedars.

35 4. That the Members of the Legislature support the focus on
36 eradicating salt cedars and the overgrowth of forests, which would provide
37 substantial volumes of water.

38 5. That the Members of the Legislature determine that eradicating
39 salt cedars and responsibly managing forests in the West presents an
40 opportunity to substantially increase the availability of water in the
41 Colorado River.

42 [6. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit a
43 copy of this Resolution to the President of the United States, President
44 of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of
45 Representatives, the Secretary of the United States Department of the
46 Interior, the Chief of the United States Forest Service, Commissioner of

1 the United States Bureau of Land Reclamation and each Member of Congress
2 from the State of Arizona.]

3 Enroll and engross to conform

4 Amend title to conform

GAIL GRIFFIN
CHAIRMAN

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