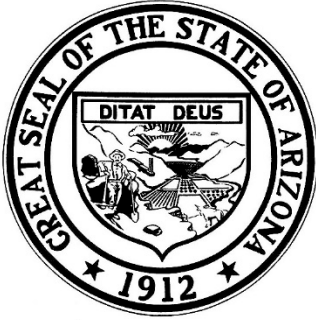


HOUSE FLOOR AMENDMENT EXPLANATION



Bill Number: **HCR2046**

Griffin Floor Amendment

-
- Removes *the Members of the Legislature* and reinserts *state and federal legislators and government administrators*.
 - Adds *other rivers in the West* as a subject that would benefit from the eradication of salt cedars and forest management.
 - Provides the US Congress should fund the eradication of salt cedars and enable the responsible mechanical thinning of unhealthy overgrown forests.
 - Outlines the Arizona Secretary of State transmit a copy of this resolution to the US President, President of the US Senate, Speaker of the US House of Representatives, Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Chief of the US Forest Service, Commissions of the US Bureau of Reclamation and each member of Congress from Arizona.

Amendment explanation prepared by Corbin W

Phone Number 63458

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2/25/2025

GRIFFIN SUBSTITUTE FLOOR AMENDMENT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AMENDMENTS TO H. C. R. 2046

I move the following SUBSTITUTE amendment to the NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY & WATER
Committee Amendment to
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 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
brought to the United States in the 1800s as an ornamental plant. It is

1 now listed as an invasive species by the United States Department of
2 Agriculture; and

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

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

9 Whereas, salt cedars now cover nearly two million acres of river
10 banks; and

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

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

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

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

26 Therefore

27 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona,
28 the Senate concurring:

29 1. That consumption is not the problem causing reduction of
30 Colorado River water.

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

33 3. That ~~[the Members of the Legislature]~~ [state and federal
34 legislators and government administrators] determine that until the
35 principal causes of the limited Colorado River water are addressed, any
36 proactive conservation efforts or investments that state or private
37 organizations make will be in vain because the gains will be consumed by
38 the additional proliferation of forest stands and salt cedars.

39 4. That ~~[the Members of the Legislature]~~ [state and federal
40 legislators and government administrators] support the focus on
41 eradicating salt cedars and the overgrowth of forests, which would provide
42 substantial volumes of water.

43 5. That ~~[the Members of the Legislature]~~ [state and federal
44 legislators and government administrators] determine that eradicating salt
45 cedars and responsibly managing forests in the West presents an
46 opportunity to substantially increase the availability of water in the
47 Colorado River [and other rivers in the West].

1 [6. That the United States Congress should fund the eradication of
2 salt cedars and enable the responsible mechanical thinning of unhealthy
3 overgrown forests in the West.

4 7. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit a
5 copy of this Resolution to the President of the United States, the
6 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States
7 House of Representatives, the Secretary of the United States Department of
8 the Interior, the Chief of the United States Forest Service, the
9 Commissioner of the United States Bureau of Reclamation and each Member of
10 Congress from the State of Arizona.]

11 Enroll and engross to conform

12 Amend title to conform

GAIL GRIFFIN

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02/19/2025

2:13 PM

C: AW