

HOUSE FLOOR AMENDMENT EXPLANATION



Bill Number: **HCR2046**

Griffin Floor Amendment

-
- Removes the claim that consumption is not the problem causing reduction of Colorado River water.
 - Makes suggested actions of the resolution permissive.

Amendment explanation prepared by Corbin W

Phone Number 63458

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3/11/2025

ADDITIONAL COW
GRIFFIN FLOOR AMENDMENT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AMENDMENTS TO H.C.R. 2046
(Reference to House engrossed 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 [a variety of factors,
7 including] historic drought, 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]~~ [overgrown forests cause
15 higher depletion of water] before ever reaching the 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 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona,
26 the Senate concurring:

27 ~~[1. That consumption is not the problem causing reduction of~~
28 ~~Colorado River water.]~~

29 ~~[2.]~~ [1.] That [the] mismanagement of overgrown [forests] and [the
30 proliferation of] water-depleting plants [like salt cedars] in American
31 watersheds [reduces] [are reducing] annual flows [in] [to] the Colorado
32 River.

33 ~~[3.]~~ [2.] That state and federal legislators and government
34 administrators [determine] [should acknowledge] that until the [principal
35 causes of the limited Colorado River water] [issues of forest
36 mismanagement and salt cedar proliferation] are addressed, any proactive
37 conservation efforts or investments that state or private organizations
38 make [will be in vain because the gains] will be consumed by the
39 additional proliferation of forest stands and salt cedars.

40 ~~[4.]~~ [3.] That state and federal legislators and government
41 administrators [should] support the [focus on eradicating] [eradication
42 of] salt cedars and [the overgrowth of] [the management of overgrown]
43 forests, which would provide substantial volumes of water.

44 ~~[5.]~~ [4.] That state and federal legislators and government
45 administrators [should] determine that eradicating salt cedars and
46 responsibly managing forests in the West presents an opportunity to

1 substantially increase the availability of water in the Colorado River and
2 other rivers in the West.

| 3 ~~[6.]~~ [5.] That the United States Congress should fund the
4 eradication of salt cedars and enable the responsible mechanical thinning
5 of unhealthy overgrown forests in the West.

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

13 Enroll and engross to conform

14 Amend title to conform

GAIL GRIFFIN

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