

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 617

By McDonald

A RESOLUTION stating opposition to all efforts of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to charge fees for water usage from Old Hickory Lake or its supporting water sources.

WHEREAS, Tennessee relies on the Cumberland River, Old Hickory Lake and Old Hickory Dam and the utility districts which serve the citizens of these cities and counties and use these waterways as their source of water and services; and

WHEREAS, Old Hickory Lake and the supporting waterways have for decades been the source of natural collection of resources for the areas and have served as a priceless supply of water for our daily needs and activities; and

WHEREAS, this free natural resource should not become a source of income for the federal government nor an arbitrary tax or fee collected to pay for services not received nor used by the citizens of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Tennesseans and the numerous citizens of its communities are concerned, not only for today's population and economic impact of additional costs, but how fees and the authority to charge same, could impact future generations; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that this body firmly requests that any plan to charge a storage rate, tax, cost or withdrawal fee for the usage of water from Old Hickory Lake be brought to an end and prohibited.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any efforts by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or any other federal agency, to create a charge or fee for the use or storage, be abandoned.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this body strongly asks our leaders at the state and national level to oppose, through every means available, any efforts to charge a fee to any utility entity which pumps water out of Old Hickory Lake or its supporting water sources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this body further encourages our state and federal representatives to draft, present and support legislation to discontinue any such future plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to send enrolled copies of this resolution to the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States Senate and to all members of the Tennessee congressional delegation.