



NORTH DAKOTA SENATE

STATE CAPITOL
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BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



COMMITTEES:
Judiciary, Vice Chairman
Natural Resources

Senator Stan Lyson
District 1
1608 Fourth Avenue West
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February 20, 2006

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To: Red River Valley Water Supply Project
From: Senator Stanley W. Lyson
Re: impact on Lake Sakakawea

I am writing this letter to state my opposition to the Red River Valley Water Supply Project. Lake Sakakawea water level sets at 1811 today. This is more than thirty feet below the level just four years ago. Many of my constituents are calling me with concerns they have after reading newspaper articles about all the water projects.

Recently there have been articles about Southwest water expanding their project to Medora, Richardton Ethanol plant, Northwest area water supply project that is not yet complete and two or three new project in eastern Montana. There has also been an article in the Grand Forks Herald saying that Lake Sakakawea water is needed for new commercial project in the Red River Valley.

I think that the statement of Dave Koland, manager of the Garrison Conservancy District, that the plan to send Missouri River water to the Red River Valley would have a minimal impact on Lake Sakakawea. This statement angered people in Northwest North Dakota when all we see is miles of mud flats.

I believe it is time that we slow down and do a long-term study to develop a plan that protects this area of North Dakota. I would ask you to extend the time for written comments to give the people of Northwest North Dakota time to submit their concerns.