

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 81

Supporting the goals and ideals of World Water Day.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 23, 2009

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KERRY) submitted the following resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of World Water Day.

Whereas the United Nations General Assembly, by resolution,
has designated March 22 of each year as “World Water
Day”;

Whereas a person needs 4 to 5 liters of water per day to sur-
vive;

Whereas a person can live weeks without food, but only days
without water;

Whereas every 15 seconds a child dies from a water-borne
disease;

Whereas, for children under age 5, water-borne diseases are
the leading cause of death;

Whereas millions of women and children already spend several hours a day collecting water from distant, often polluted sources;

Whereas every dollar spent on water and sanitation saves an average of \$9 in costs averted and productivity gained;

Whereas, at any given time, $\frac{1}{2}$ of the hospital beds in the world are occupied by patients suffering from a water-borne disease;

Whereas 88 percent of all diseases are caused by unsafe drinking water, inadequate sanitation, and poor hygiene;

Whereas 1,100,000,000 (1 in 6) people lack access to an improved water supply;

Whereas 2,600,000,000 people in the world lack access to improved sanitation;

Whereas the 263 transboundary lake and river basins in the world are part of the territory of 145 countries and cover nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ of the land surface of the Earth;

Whereas climate change may cause more extreme floods and droughts, increasing political tension and the potential for clashes over transboundary fresh water resources;

Whereas the global celebration of World Water Day is an initiative that grew out of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro;

Whereas the participants in the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, including the United States, agreed to the Plan of Implementation which included an agreement to work to reduce by $\frac{1}{2}$ from the baseline year 1990 “the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking

water”, “and the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation” by 2015; and

Whereas Congress passed and the President signed into law the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–121), which was intended to “elevate the role of water and sanitation policy in the development of U.S. foreign policy and improve the effectiveness of U.S. official programs”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) supports the goals and ideals of World
3 Water Day;

4 (2) urges an increased effort and the invest-
5 ment of greater resources by the Department of
6 State, the United States Agency for International
7 Development, and all relevant Federal departments
8 and agencies toward providing sustainable and equi-
9 table access to safe drinking water and sanitation
10 for the poor and the very poor; and

11 (3) encourages the people of the United States
12 to observe the week of World Water Day with appro-
13 priate activities that promote awareness of the im-
14 portance of—

15 (A) access to clean water; and

16 (B) cooperation between stakeholders in
17 transboundary water management.

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