

FROM SENATOR MIKE Mc CORMACK, SENATE COMMITTEE ROOM SIX, LEGISLATIVE BLDG., OLYMPIA  
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Olympia---Members of the State Senate Tuesday adopted unanimously a resolution sponsored by Senator Mike McCormack (D-Richland) urging a two-year moratorium on Columbia Basin Project extra drainage charges.

"A gross miscalculation of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in underestimating the costs of the project drainage system by more than \$36 million was not the fault of the farmers," Senator McCormack told the Senate.

In urging passage of the resolution, the Benton-Franklin County legislator said:

"We wish to congratulate the farmers of the Columbia Basin not only for their labors and courage in converting the Columbia Basin from a desert to healthy, productive farmland, but also for their calm persistence in the face of seemingly overwhelming obstacles.

"We also wish to commend them for their faith in the ultimate fairness of the legal, democratic processes under which we live."

McCormack said the resolution, directed to President John F. Kennedy, urges that the two-year moratorium be declared on extra drainage charges which amount to an additional \$184 for an 80-acre farm this season and a probable \$240 in 1962.

"The fact that the costs of the drainage system have increased since the original contract was signed in 1945," he said, "still does not mean that the entire burden should be borne by the settlers who are laboring long hours daily and are living on meager and uncertain incomes.

"Time provided by the moratorium will permit Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall to make a thorough study of the Columbia Basin program of the Bureau of Reclamation."

McCormack noted that Governor Albert D. Rosellin, Senators Warren G. Magnuson and Henry M. Jackson and Chairman Earl Coe of the State Columbia Basin Commission all have supported the suggested delay in extra drainage charges while the new national administration works out an equitable solution to the problem with the farmers and the project irrigation districts.

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