

# One Hundred Seventh Legislature - Second Session - 2022

## Introducer's Statement of Intent

### LB1023

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**Chairperson: Senator Bruce Bostelman**

**Committee: Natural Resources**

**Date of Hearing: February 10, 2022**

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

The purpose of LB 1023 is to carry out projects recommended by the State Tourism And Recreational Water Access and Resource Sustainability (STAR WARS) Special Committee of the Legislature.

The STAR WARS committee was created by LB 406 (2021) and charged with studying strategies to secure Nebraska's future water supply and strengthen Nebraska's flood control infrastructure, while also considering economic and recreational opportunities. After completing its study, the committee recommended the following projects:

- Lower Platte River Lake Development: construction of a combined reservoir within the floodplain of near the Platte River that will create a 4,000 acre lake that will provide unprecedented new development and recreation opportunities, as well as enhancing flood control and water quality in the area
- The Lewis and Clark State Recreation Area: marina construction projects to expand water access and recreational opportunities
- Lake McConaughy: marina construction projects to expand water access and recreational opportunities
- Niobrara State Park: construction of an event center and lodge to increase access to and enjoyment of the Niobrara State Park

The bill authorizes the Department of Natural Resources to administer the Lower Platte River Lake Development Project and authorizes the Game and Parks Commission to administer the Lake McConaughy, Lewis and Clark State Recreation Area, and Niobrara State Park projects.

The STAR WARS projects are innovative and winning opportunities that will secure Nebraska's future water supply and flood control, create more opportunities for water access and recreation, and catalyze economic activity.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator Mike Hilgers**