

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 159

Reps. Camilleri, Coleman, Garza, Haadsma, Witwer, Whitsett, Sowerby, Shannon, Rabhi, Cynthia Johnson, Tate, Gay-Dagnogo, Ellison, Pohutsky, Warren, Sabo, Brixie, Kuppa, Hoadley, Love, Hope, Peterson, Cherry, Greig, Koleszar, Lasinski, Pagan, Brann, Clemente, Wittenberg and Manoogian offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge the President and Congress of the United
2 States and the United States Environmental Protection Agency to
3 commit to assisting states in reducing nutrient pollution in the
4 western Lake Erie basin by 40 percent by 2025.

5 Whereas, Harmful algal blooms threaten drinking water, outdoor
6 recreation, and fish and wildlife in the Great Lakes region. These
7 nutrient-fed toxic outbreaks in western Lake Erie and other areas
8 of the region can impact large areas, with consequences for
9 people's quality of life and for the water-dependent economy of



1 Michigan and the other seven Great Lakes states; and

2 Whereas, The threat of harmful algal blooms is not
3 hypothetical. Harmful algal blooms in the western Lake Erie basin
4 are increasing in frequency and intensity, impacting Michigan's and
5 Ohio's Great Lakes shoreline and recreation in these areas. Toxins
6 produced by these harmful algal blooms can sicken people and pets
7 exposed through swimming, wading, or boating and contaminate
8 drinking water; and

9 Whereas, Little progress has been made toward reaching targets
10 for nutrient reduction. Under the Great Lakes Water Quality
11 Agreement, the United States and Canada committed to reducing total
12 phosphorus loads to Lake Erie by 40 percent, with Michigan, Ohio,
13 and Ontario committing to hit this target by 2025. These ambitious
14 targets require aggressive action, but unless efforts increase
15 soon, these will end up being empty promises; and

16 Whereas, The potential for harmful algal blooms will only
17 increase in the future. The continuing trend of higher temperatures
18 and more intense rainfall expected with climate change create a
19 recipe for larger and longer-lasting blooms with consequences for
20 all water users; and

21 Whereas, States are doing their part to address harmful algal
22 blooms. Michigan and other Great Lakes states have developed action
23 plans to address nutrient pollution in Lake Erie. States need a
24 robust and active federal partner to address the threat from
25 harmful algal blooms; now, therefore, be it

26 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the
27 President and Congress of the United States and the United States
28 Environmental Protection Agency to commit to assisting states in
29 reducing nutrient pollution in the western Lake Erie basin by 40



1 percent by 2025 by focusing federal funding, resources, and
2 expertise to the problem while still maintaining the commitment to
3 monitor, report, and reduce nutrient pollution in the other Great
4 Lakes and regional water bodies; and be it further

5 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
6 President of the United States, the President of the United States
7 Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,
8 the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the
9 Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency.