

Rep. Sak offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 293.

A resolution to urge Ohio, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania to enact the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact without changes.

Whereas, The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact is a historic document that would protect the Great Lakes from diversions and wasteful withdrawals while preserving reasonable use of Great Lakes water within the region. The final document represents a compromise negotiated over nearly five years by the Great Lakes governors and Canadian premiers with input from thousands of stakeholders and citizens; and

Whereas, The compact will not become legally binding unless the same language is approved by each Great Lakes state and the United States Congress. Minnesota, Illinois, and Indiana have already approved identical compact language. The New York State Legislature has put a bill with the same language on the governor's desk. The Pennsylvania and Ohio House of Representatives have passed bills that would enact that same language. However, the Ohio Senate and Wisconsin State Assembly have indicated that they will consider amending the compact; and

Whereas, Any changes to the compact at the state level would be a major setback and could undo all the hard work that went into reaching the current compromise. Unilateral changes would place the compact in jeopardy of ever becoming law and would threaten the long-term future of the Great Lakes and all the industries, businesses, farmers, and citizens that depend on them; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge Ohio, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania to enact the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact without changes; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Ohio General Assembly, the Pennsylvania General Assembly, the Wisconsin Legislature, and the governors of Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.