

Senators Schuitmaker and Warren offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 114.

A resolution to memorialize Congress and the President, in all matters pertaining to trade agreements, to remain cognizant of the degree to which Asia's pollution impacts the quality of the Great Lakes.

Whereas, Over the past few decades, much attention has been directed to the interconnectedness of the nations of the world. This is most often expressed and most evident in the development of our global economy. With the evolution of technology, transportation, and communications, geographic barriers have less and less significance in many aspects of life; and

Whereas, The impact on our environment of the global economy and policies that are followed in other countries is increasingly evident. In Michigan, there are growing concerns over the harm that can be done to the Great Lakes by pollution emanating from Asia. The effects of airborne matter from Asia's notoriously-polluted skies, especially persistent organic pollutants (POPs) such as mercury, toxaphene, and PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyl), are deeply troubling to many Americans, including those committed to protecting the Great Lakes; and

Whereas, In the negotiation and enforcement of trade policies with other nations, but most especially with the swiftly-growing economies of Asia, it is important that all of the ways these policies affect life in the United States be fully understood. While economic factors, fairness, and mutually-beneficial provisions to promote healthy growth are the foundation of good policies and practices, it is critical that those involved in this process realize that there are many other ways that these treaties impact our nation. Clearly, all efforts must be taken to ensure the health and future of one of the most critical sources of fresh water in the world; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize Congress and the President, in all matters pertaining to trade agreements, to remain cognizant of the degree to which Asia's pollution impacts the quality of the Great Lakes; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the Office of the President of the United States.