

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 45

Reps. Hood, Sowerby, Lasinski, Camilleri, Pohutsky, Brixie, Hope, Sabo, VanSingel, VanWoerkom, Cherry, Sneller, Warren, Stone, LaGrand, Hoadley, Greig, Rabhi, Cynthia Johnson, Vaupel, Brann, Howell, Cambensy, Gay-Dagnogo and Whitsett offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to memorialize the Congress of the United States
2 to continue full funding of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

3 Whereas, The Great Lakes are a critical resource for our
4 nation, supporting the economy and a way of life in Michigan, seven
5 other states, and two Canadian provinces within the Great Lakes
6 region. The Great Lakes hold 20 percent of the world's surface
7 freshwater and 90 percent of the United States' surface freshwater.
8 This globally significant freshwater resource provides drinking
9 water for more than 30 million people and directly supports 1.5

1 million jobs, generating \$62 billion in wages; and

2 Whereas, The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) has
3 provided crucial funding to support long overdue work to protect
4 and restore the Great Lakes. In partnership with the states, local
5 governments, and other organizations, the federal government has
6 invested more than \$3 billion and supported over 4,700 projects
7 over the last decade, including around \$600 million for more than
8 1,100 projects in Michigan. These projects have cleaned up toxic
9 pollution, reduced runoff from cities and farms, combatted invasive
10 species, and restored fish and wildlife habitat; and

11 Whereas, The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has made a
12 significant difference and represents a sound investment in both
13 the environment and the economies of the Great Lakes region. A 2018
14 study calculated that for every federal dollar invested in Great
15 Lakes restoration there is \$3.35 in additional economic activity,
16 with older industrial cities like Detroit seeing an even higher
17 return on investment; and

18 Whereas, Far more work needs to be done to protect and restore
19 the Great Lakes. Whether toxic algal blooms shutting down Toledo's
20 drinking water supply, invasive carp threatening billion-dollar
21 fisheries, or contaminated sediments restricting recreational
22 opportunities, substantial limitations and threats to the use of
23 the Great Lakes remain. These problems require a collaborative
24 effort to solve; and

25 Whereas, The President of the United States proposed a Fiscal
26 Year 2020 federal budget that reduces funding for the Great Lakes
27 Restoration Initiative by 90 percent. This proposed \$270 million
28 cut ignores the national significance of our country's largest
29 reserve of drinkable, surface freshwater and jeopardizes momentum

1 from more than a decade of unprecedented regional, bipartisan
2 cooperation; and

3 Whereas, The Great Lakes are a critical natural asset. If
4 restored and protected, they will serve as a vital resource of
5 freshwater for generations into the future. Restoration efforts
6 will only become more expensive and more difficult if we fail to
7 make progress in the coming years. The federal government needs to
8 remain an active partner with the Great Lakes region; now,
9 therefore, be it

10 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize
11 the Congress of the United States to continue full funding of the
12 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative; and be it further

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