

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.157

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

1 A resolution to memorialize the President and Congress of the
2 United States to increase funding for the Great Lakes Restoration
3 Initiative to \$475 million per year.

4 Whereas, The Great Lakes are a critical resource for our
5 nation and central to the economy, heritage, and quality of life of
6 Michigan and the other seven states within the Great Lakes region.
7 The Great Lakes hold over 84 percent of the United States' surface
8 freshwater and drive a thriving regional economy, directly
9 supporting 1.5 million U.S. jobs and generating \$62 billion in



1 wages. More than 30 million U.S. residents depend on the Great
2 Lakes for drinking water; and

3 Whereas, The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) has
4 provided crucial funding to support long overdue work to protect
5 and restore the Great Lakes. In partnership with the states, local
6 governments, and other organizations, the federal government has
7 invested more than \$3 billion and supported over 4,700 projects
8 over the last decade, including around \$600 million for more than
9 1,100 projects in Michigan; and

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

16 Whereas, Real progress has been made in cleaning up and
17 restoring the Great Lakes thanks to the Great Lakes Restoration
18 Initiative. One-third of the region's toxic hot spots have been
19 cleaned up, sparking redevelopment and business opportunities on
20 waterfronts. Area farms and conservation organizations have
21 increased conservation practices, which have reduced harmful
22 nutrient runoff, and habitat and wildlife connectivity continue to
23 improve, with nearly 5,000 miles of rivers cleared of dams and
24 other barriers; and

25 Whereas, Far more work needs to be done to ensure every person
26 has a clean community in which to live, safe beaches to enjoy, and
27 healthy fish to eat. Substantial limitations and threats to the use
28 of the Great Lakes remain whether toxic algal blooms shutting down
29 Toledo's drinking water supply, invasive carp threatening billion-

1 dollar fisheries, or contaminated sediments restricting
2 recreational opportunities; and

3 Whereas, The time to act is now. The ecological, economic, and
4 health risks are too high. The problems will only get worse and the
5 solutions more expensive and challenging in the future; now,
6 therefore, be it

7 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize
8 the President and Congress of the United States to increase funding
9 for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to \$475 million per year
10 to boost the region's work of cleaning up toxic contamination,
11 reducing runoff pollution, stopping invasive species, and
12 protecting and restoring wetlands and other habitats; and be it
13 further

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