

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 214

Reps. Lilly, VanWoerkom, O'Malley, Allor, Griffin, Paquette, Sheppard and Yaroch offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to call on the Governor to formally request that
2 Ontario cease or limit to the greatest extent possible the
3 redirection of water into the Great Lakes.

4 Whereas, Great Lakes water levels are at or near historic high
5 levels. Over the last year, high water level records set in the
6 early 1950s and mid-1980s have been broken throughout the region.
7 The United States Army Corps of Engineers projects that
8 historically high water levels will continue for at least the next
9 six months, with Lake Michigan and Lake Huron projected to break
10 seasonal record highs this winter; and

11 Whereas, Record high water levels have created emergency
12 conditions along the Great Lakes shoreline. Shoreline erosion and



1 flooding have erased beaches and significantly damaged roads,
 2 bridges, and boat ramps, impacting businesses, state parks, and
 3 municipalities. Homes have collapsed into the lakes as the bluffs
 4 they sit on erode away. Michigan's \$955 million coastal tourism
 5 industry is increasingly threatened; and

6 Whereas, The redirection of water into the Great Lakes from
 7 Ontario contributes to high water levels. On average, three to four
 8 billion gallons of water are diverted into Lake Superior through
 9 the Long Lac and Ogoki diversions every day, affecting water levels
 10 across the region. These diversions raise water levels up to 4.3
 11 inches on Lake Michigan and Lake Huron and 2.4 inches on Lake
 12 Superior; and

13 Whereas, Canada has reduced flow through the Long Lac and
 14 Ogoki diversions in the past – or closed flow off entirely – to
 15 help relieve high water levels. At the request of the United
 16 States, Canada reduced or stopped flow during past historic high
 17 periods in the early 1950s, early 1970s, and mid-1980s; and

18 Whereas, Every inch that water levels can be reduced will save
 19 homes and decrease damage to public infrastructure in Michigan and
 20 other states. Once again, our Great Lakes communities and residents
 21 need Canada's assistance to address this crisis; now, therefore, be
 22 it

23 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we call on the
 24 Governor to formally request that Ontario cease or limit to the
 25 greatest extent possible the redirection of water into the Great
 26 Lakes until water levels recede from historic highs; and be it
 27 further

28 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
 29 Governor of Michigan.

