

**SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 25**

1 A resolution to memorialize the Congress of the United States
2 to continue full funding of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
3 and to prioritize cleaning up the remaining Great Lakes areas of
4 concern in accordance with a comprehensive strategy and schedule.

5 Whereas, The Great Lakes are a critical resource for our
6 nation, supporting the economy and a way of life in Michigan and
7 the other seven states within the Great Lakes region. The Great
8 Lakes hold 20 percent of the world's surface freshwater and 90
9 percent of the United States' surface freshwater. This globally
10 significant freshwater resource provides drinking water for more
11 than 30 million people and directly supports 1.5 million jobs,
12 generating \$62 billion in wages; and

13 Whereas, The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) has
14 provided crucial funding to support long overdue work to protect



1 and restore the Great Lakes. In partnership with the states, local
2 governments, and other organizations, the federal government has
3 invested more than \$3 billion and supported over 4,700 projects
4 over the last decade, including around \$600 million for more than
5 1,100 projects in Michigan. These projects have cleaned up toxic
6 pollution, reduced runoff from cities and farms, combatted invasive
7 species, and restored fish and wildlife habitat; and

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

15 Whereas, The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has made a
16 particular difference in addressing toxic hot spots around the
17 Great Lakes. Prior to the GLRI, only one of these 31 "areas of
18 concern" within the United States had been cleaned up in more than
19 20 years. Since 2010, GLRI funding has facilitated the cleanup of
20 six additional areas of concern, five in Michigan. Cleaning up
21 these areas of concerns makes a real difference to the environment
22 as well as local economies by improving water quality, restoring
23 fish and wildlife habitat, enhancing recreational opportunities,
24 and facilitating new development; and

25 Whereas, Far more work needs to be done. Whether toxic algal
26 blooms shutting down Toledo's drinking water supply, invasive carp
27 threatening billion-dollar fisheries, or contaminated sediments
28 restricting recreational opportunities, substantial limitations and
29 threats to the use of the Great Lakes remain. Twenty-four areas of



1 concern still need additional cleanup work done, including eight in
2 Michigan. These problems require a collaborative effort to solve;
3 and

4 Whereas, Less than 40 percent of the available funds have been
5 spent in recent years cleaning up the federally designated areas of
6 concern. Greater emphasis should be placed on addressing these
7 sites, including having most of the available dollars designated
8 towards completing cleanup of the remaining areas of concern. While
9 other needs have merit as well, cleaning up these sites would bring
10 significant benefits to impacted communities; and

11 Whereas, The President's Fiscal Year 2020 federal budget
12 proposes to reduce funding for the Great Lakes Restoration
13 Initiative by 90 percent, though later commitments pledged to
14 continue funding at past levels. This continued funding is
15 appreciated as restoration efforts will only become more expensive
16 and more difficult if they are not addressed in the coming years.
17 The federal government needs to remain an active partner with the
18 Great Lakes region; now, therefore, be it

19 Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize the Congress of
20 the United States to continue full funding of the Great Lakes
21 Restoration Initiative; and be it further

22 Resolved, That we encourage that funding be prioritized
23 towards cleaning up and delisting the remaining Great Lakes areas
24 of concern and that a detailed comprehensive strategy and schedule
25 be developed to direct the use of funding for the areas of concern;
26 and be it further

27 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
28 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United
29 States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan



1 congressional delegation.

