

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 15

Senators Wojno, Santana, Cavanagh, Hertel, Lauwers, McCann, Damoose, Huizenga, Bayer, McMorrow, Webber, Cherry, Klinefelt, Chang, Shink, Geiss and Polehanki offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge the United States Congress to allocate
2 \$425 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in the
3 Fiscal Year 2024 budget.

4 Whereas, The Great Lakes are a critical resource for our
5 nation, supporting the economy and a way of life in Michigan and
6 the other seven states within the Great Lakes region. The Great
7 Lakes hold 21 percent of the world's surface freshwater and 84
8 percent of the United States' surface freshwater supply. This
9 globally significant freshwater resource provides drinking water
10 for more than 30 million people and directly supports 1.3 million
11 jobs, generating \$82 billion in wages; and

1 Whereas, The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) has
2 provided crucial funding to support long overdue work to protect
3 and restore the Great Lakes. In partnership with the states, local
4 governments, and other organizations, the federal government has
5 invested more than \$3 billion and supported over 6,800 projects
6 since 2010, including over \$600 million for more than 2,100
7 projects in Michigan. These projects have cleaned up toxic
8 pollution, reduced runoff from cities and farms, combatted invasive
9 species, and restored fish and wildlife habitats; and

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

16 Whereas, Far more work needs to be done. Whether toxic algal
17 blooms contaminating water supplies along Lake Erie, invasive carp
18 threatening billion-dollar fisheries, or contaminated sediments
19 restricting recreational opportunities, substantial limitations and
20 threats to the use of the Great Lakes remain. These problems
21 require a collaborative effort to solve; and

22 Whereas, The United States Congress allocated \$368 million to
23 the GLRI as part of the federal spending bill for Fiscal Year 2023.
24 While a \$279.8 million increase from Fiscal Year 2022, this
25 allocation is less than the \$400 million that the GLRI was
26 authorized to receive. This shortfall ignores the national
27 significance of our country's largest reserve of drinkable, surface
28 freshwater and jeopardizes the momentum from more than a decade of
29 unprecedented regional cooperation. It is a short-sighted, short-

1 term cost-savings measure with long-term implications. Restoration
2 efforts will only become more expensive and more difficult if they
3 are not addressed in the coming years. The federal government needs
4 to remain an active partner with the Great Lakes Region; now,
5 therefore, be it

6 Resolved by the Senate, That we urge the United States
7 Congress to allocate \$425 million for the Great Lakes Restoration
8 Initiative in the Fiscal Year 2024 budget; and be it further

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