

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6

Senators Wojno, Ananich, Brinks, McMorrow, Bullock, Outman, Alexander, Geiss, Polehanki, Irwin and Zorn offered the following concurrent resolution:

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

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 20 percent of the world's surface freshwater and 90
8 percent of the United States' surface freshwater. This globally
9 significant freshwater resource provides drinking water for more
10 than 30 million people and directly supports 1.5 million jobs,
11 generating \$62 billion in wages; and

12 Whereas, The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) has

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

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

16 Whereas, Far more work needs to be done. Whether toxic algal
17 blooms shutting down Toledo's drinking water supply, 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 President's Fiscal Year 2020 federal budget
23 proposes to reduce funding for the Great Lakes Restoration
24 Initiative by 90 percent. This proposed \$270 million cut ignores
25 the national significance of our country's largest reserve of
26 drinkable, surface freshwater and jeopardizes the momentum from
27 more than a decade of unprecedented regional cooperation. It is a
28 short-sighted, short-term cost-saving measure with long-term
29 implications. Restoration efforts will only become more expensive

1 and more difficult if they are not addressed in the coming years.
2 The federal government needs to remain an active partner with the
3 Great Lakes region; now, therefore, be it

4 Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives
5 concurring), That we memorialize the Congress of the United States
6 to continue full funding of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative;
7 and be it further

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