

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

Rep. Wozniak offered the following concurrent resolution:

1 A concurrent resolution to memorialize the Congress of the
2 United States to include sewer separation and other projects
3 intended to reduce sewer overflows in infrastructure funding bills.

4 Whereas, Congress is currently negotiating bills to implement
5 the Biden administration's \$2.3 trillion plan to repair and improve
6 the nation's infrastructure. The plan would invest in roads,
7 bridges, public transit, railroads, drinking water systems,
8 broadband, and other infrastructure needs across the nation; and

9 Whereas, Sewer overflows into our nation's waters due to aging
10 and outdated wastewater infrastructure are an annual occurrence. An
11 estimated 23,000 to 75,000 sanitary sewer overflows occur each
12 year, and more than 860 municipalities continue to operate combined
13 sewer systems prone to overflows after heavy rains that pollute
14 waters. In Michigan alone, there were 750 sewer overflows,

1 discharging more than 37 billion gallons of minimally treated
2 sewage and more than 3 billion gallons of raw sewage into
3 Michigan's lakes, rivers, and streams in 2019; and

4 Whereas, Sewer overflows endanger public health and the
5 environment. Exposure to sewage-contaminated water can lead to
6 illness, often forcing the closure of swimming beaches. Overflows
7 may feed harmful or nuisance algal blooms and deplete oxygen in the
8 water, impacting recreation, fish, and wildlife. Nothing is more
9 important than making sure our drinking water as well as the
10 waterways we use for recreation, fishing, and tourism are protected
11 from sewer overflows; and

12 Whereas, There remains a substantial gap between available
13 funds to address sewer overflows and funding needs. The 2019
14 American Society of Civil Engineers' infrastructure report card
15 identified an \$81 billion annual gap nationally for water
16 infrastructure. In Michigan, the 21st Century Infrastructure
17 Commission noted an \$800 million annual gap for water and sewer
18 infrastructure needs. Despite their best efforts, states, local
19 governments, and their residents cannot fill this gap on their own;
20 now, therefore, be it

21 Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate
22 concurring), That we memorialize the Congress of the United States
23 to include sewer separation and other projects intended to reduce
24 sewage overflows into our nation's waters in infrastructure funding
25 bills; and be it further

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