

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 187

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas the Great Lakes are the largest surface freshwater system on the planet;

Whereas the Great Lakes account for 95 percent of the United States' surface fresh water and about 21 percent of the world's supply;

Whereas the Great Lakes provide drinking water for more than 30 million Americans;

Whereas, on May 18, 2004, President George W. Bush said “the Great Lakes are a national treasure”;

Whereas Congress has expressed its commitment to protecting the Great Lakes from pollutants and contaminants through the Clean Water Act and subsequent legislation;

Whereas the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Environment Canada joined together in promulgating the Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy to eliminate the presence of persistent toxic substances in the Great Lakes basin;

Whereas the “mixing zones” that dilute toxic chemicals discharged into the Great Lakes system have been controversial as a possible threat to humans, fish and wildlife;

Whereas the Great Lakes are plagued by pollutants such as mercury, PCBs, ammonia, DDT, alkylated lead, hexachlorobenzene, TCDD, toxaphene, and others;

Whereas high amounts of ammonia can cause algae blooms that threaten fish and water quality;

Whereas the Indiana Department of Environmental Management recently issued a permit to BP PLC to allow their facility in Whiting, IN, to release 54 percent more ammonia and 35 percent more total suspended solids into Lake Michigan each day;

Whereas the BP Whiting facility will now be allowed to dump an average of 1,584 pounds of ammonia and 4,925 pounds of total suspended solids daily into Lake Michigan;

Whereas the Great Lakes already face myriad challenges from chemicals and pollutants, including a steep increase

in fish consumption warnings and record numbers of beach closures; and

Whereas Congress has a clear role in protecting the Great Lakes as an entity that spans across State and international boundaries: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that—

3 (1) Congress expresses its disapproval of the
4 Indiana Department of Environmental Manage-
5 ment's issuance of a permit allowing BP to increase
6 their daily dumping of ammonia and total suspended
7 solids into Lake Michigan;

8 (2) Congress urges the State of Indiana to re-
9 consider issuance of a permit allowing BP to in-
10 crease their daily dumping of ammonia and total
11 suspended solids into Lake Michigan;

12 (3) Congress should take action to protect and
13 restore the Great Lakes;

14 (4) the United States Environmental Protection
15 Agency's actions in the Great Lakes basin should be
16 consistent with the goal of preserving and restoring
17 the Great Lakes; and

1 (5) the United States Environmental Protection
2 Agency should not allow increased dumping of
3 chemicals and pollutants into the Great Lakes.

Passed the House of Representatives July 25, 2007.

Attest:

Clerk.

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Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the dumping of industrial waste into the Great Lakes.