

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 148

Affirming authority of the Great Lakes Basin.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 26 (legislative day, MAY 25), 2001

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan (for himself, Mr. CAMP, Mr. PENCE, Mr. TIBERI, and Mr. UPTON) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Affirming authority of the Great Lakes Basin.

Whereas the water resources of the Great Lakes Basin are precious public natural resources, shared and held in trust by the Great Lakes States of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin and the Canadian Provinces of Ontario and Quebec;

Whereas authority over the Great Lakes is vested in the Governors of the Great Lakes States by the Water Resources Development Act of 1986;

Whereas section 1109(b)(2) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 1962d–20(b)(2)) encourages the Great Lakes States, in consultation with the Canadian Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, to develop and implement a mechanism that provides a common con-

servation standard embodying the principles of water conservation and resource improvement for making decisions concerning the withdrawal and use of water from the Great Lakes Basin;

Whereas section 1109(d) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 1962d–20(d)) requires the approval of the Great Lakes States prior to the diversion or export of Great Lakes water;

Whereas the Great Lakes Charter of 1985 is a voluntary international agreement that provides the procedural framework for prior notice and consultation by the Great Lakes States and the Canadian Provinces of Ontario and Quebec concerning the withdrawal of water from the Great Lakes Basin;

Whereas the Council of Great Lakes Governors has drafted amendments to the Great Lakes Charter of 1985, known as “Annex 2001”;

Whereas a primary purpose of Annex 2001 is to strengthen the authority of Great Lakes Governors and Premiers to make decisions concerning proposals to divert or export Great Lakes water by establishing a common conservation standard by which such decisions will be made; and

Whereas the final commitments proposed in Annex 2001 to affirm in-basin authority by way of enacting a basin-States compact and a cross-border accord with the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec will be presented to the United States Congress for final approval: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That Congress recognizes and affirms the ef-
 3 forts of the Great Lakes Governors and Premiers in devel-

1 oping a common standard for decisions relating to with-
2 drawal of water from the Great Lakes that lead to im-
3 provement of this binational resource and that the man-
4 agement authority over the waters of the Great Lakes
5 should remain vested with the Governors and Premiers of
6 the 8 Great Lakes States and 2 Great Lakes Provinces
7 that share stewardship over this vast and valuable natural
8 resource.

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