

Senators Allen, Stamas and George offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 66.

A resolution to express support for the efforts of the Department of History, Arts, and Libraries, the State Historic Preservation Office, and Presque Isle Township to reinstall the historic Fresnel Lens in the Presque Isle Lighthouse Tower.

Whereas, Michigan's lighthouses are important links to the state's maritime heritage. Michigan has more than 120 lighthouses located along 3,200 miles of shoreline - more than any state in the nation. Our lighthouses have shaped and sculpted the state's settlement, commerce, transportation, industry, and recreation; and

Whereas, Presque Isle Light Station, on the Lake Huron shore of northeastern lower Michigan, was established at a critical location marking a turning point for vessels navigating the lake and has the tallest tower of any Great Lakes lighthouse accessible to the public. It has functioned as an aid to navigation since 1871; and

Whereas, Approximately 65,000 visitors annually come to the Presque Isle Light Station seeking to learn more about Michigan's maritime history and to tour an operational historic lighthouse. The Presque Isle Light Station, located on a pristine 98.75-acre parcel of land, was deeded by the United States Coast Guard to Presque Isle Township in 1997 for the study and preservation of maritime history; and

Whereas, From 1871 to 2003, the Presque Isle Lighthouse Tower utilized a historic Fresnel Lens, invented by French physicist Augustin Fresnel in 1822. The Fresnel Lens could throw a beam of light 26 miles due to its unique design allowing the capture of all but 17 percent of its light versus other lenses of that time which lost between 97 and 83 percent of their light. In 2003, the United States Coast Guard removed from atop the Presque Isle Lighthouse Tower the historic Fresnel Lens for restoration, installing in its place a small, airport-style rotating beacon; and

Whereas, The state of Michigan and Presque Isle Township have committed, through the Clean Michigan Initiative Lighthouse Grants, over \$450,000 for the restoration of the Presque Isle Light Station and the reinstallation of the historic Fresnel Lens. The replacement of the historic Fresnel Lens atop the Presque Isle Light Station's tower provides an example of a historic working lens and functional aid to navigation at an ideal location for the study of this state's maritime history; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we support the Department of History, Arts, and Libraries, the State Historic Preservation Office, and Presque Isle Township in their efforts to reinstall the historic Fresnel Lens in the Presque Isle Lighthouse Tower as a working aid to navigation, to be operated by the United States Coast Guard; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Commander of the 9th District of the United States Coast Guard and the Michigan congressional delegation.