

Senators Proos, Colbeck, Jones, Pavlov, Horn, Nofs, Emmons, Brandenburg, Rocca, Green and Schmidt offered the following resolution:

**Senate Resolution No. 12.**

A resolution to support ending water diversions from the Great Lakes through Chicago.

Whereas, In recent years, Lake Michigan and Lake Huron have approached historic low levels. These low levels have a dramatic impact on state and local economies in Michigan and the other Great Lakes states. Commercial shippers have been forced to carry far less than full loads to avoid running aground, raising the cost of shipping goods. Many harbors are too shallow for recreational boats to navigate safely, denying coastal communities the significant revenue and jobs generated by these boaters; and

Whereas, Billions of gallons of Great Lakes water are diverted annually out of the Great Lakes through the man-made Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. At its authorized rate, the loss of this water lowers Lake Michigan and Lake Huron by 2.5 inches, contributing to low water level emergencies as last occurred in 2013; and

Whereas, The impact of this diversion on water levels may be even greater. The canal system has the capacity to divert nearly three times as much water, and there is a demonstrated history of flows exceeding the authorized diversion rates. Yet the actual diversion of water through Chicago over the last few years is unknown. Since 2011, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has failed to produce a report accounting for how much water is being diverted; and

Whereas, The Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal also serves as a pathway for Asian carp and other harmful species to invade the Great Lakes. Invasive species established in the Great Lakes already cost the region more than \$100 million per year. Asian carp could add dramatically to this cost if they move through the canal into the Great Lakes; and

Whereas, The costs of maintaining water diversions through Chicago outweigh any benefits to the Chicago area. The health of the Great Lakes must no longer take a back seat. Every inch of water makes a difference to the people, businesses, and communities that rely on the Great Lakes; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we support ending water diversions from the Great Lakes through Chicago; and be it further

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