

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.158

Reps. Hood, Garza, Coleman, Haadsma, Witwer, Whitsett, Sowerby, Shannon, Rabhi, Cynthia Johnson, Tate, Gay-Dagnogo, Ellison, Camilleri, Pohutsky, Warren, Sabo, Brixie, Kuppa, Hoadley, Love, Hope, Peterson, Cherry, Greig, Koleszar, VanSingel, Lasinski, Pagan, Brann, Clemente, Wittenberg and Manoogian offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to memorialize the federal government to support
2 strong ballast water rules and efforts at Brandon Road Lock and Dam
3 to prevent and control the introduction and spread of invasive
4 species in the Great Lakes region.

5 Whereas, The Great Lakes are a critical resource for our
6 nation and central to the economy, heritage, and quality of life in
7 Michigan and the other seven states within the Great Lakes region.
8 The Great Lakes drive a thriving regional economy, directly



1 supporting 1.5 million U.S. jobs and generating \$62 billion in
2 wages; and

3 Whereas, Aquatic invasive species have altered the basic
4 functions of the Great Lakes and its waterways, disrupting
5 fisheries, wildlife, and water supplies. More than 180 non-native
6 invasive species have established themselves in the Great Lakes
7 over the years, costing the region an estimated \$100 million per
8 year or more; and

9 Whereas, Aquatic invasive species are a continuing threat to
10 the Great Lakes and its regional economy and quality of life. Asian
11 carp are on the verge of entering the Great Lakes and are a direct
12 threat to the \$7 billion Great Lakes fishing industry. In places in
13 the Illinois River, these invasive fish make up 90 percent of the
14 aquatic life present; and

15 Whereas, Ballast water carried in ships traversing the Great
16 Lakes can contain non-native invasive species that are introduced
17 and spread with unknown but potentially dire consequences when the
18 ballast water is emptied into the Great Lakes. The impact of zebra
19 and quagga mussels not only on the basic ecology of the Great Lakes
20 but on drinking water systems, power plants, and other water users
21 demonstrates the magnitude of the potential threat from invasive
22 species contained in ballast water; and

23 Whereas, The installation of technologies at the Brandon Road
24 Lock and Dam would be a major step in ensuring Asian carp and other
25 invasive species do not move into the Great Lakes. The benefits of
26 this project go beyond the Great Lakes and will provide solutions
27 and tools that can be utilized in waterways across the nation to
28 combat invasive species; and

29 Whereas, Efforts to prevent invasive species from entering the



1 Great Lakes need to move forward as quickly as possible. The threat
2 is imminent, and once invasive species get established in the Great
3 Lakes, there is no way to clean up the problem. These harmful
4 species will be here to stay; now, therefore, be it

5 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we memorialize
6 the President and Congress of the United States and the United
7 States Army Corps of Engineers to support, fully fund, and expedite
8 the plan to build new prevention measures at Brandon Road Lock and
9 Dam; and be it further

10 Resolved, That we memorialize the President and Congress to
11 support strong ballast water rules for every Great Lakes vessel to
12 help stop and control the introduction and spread of invasive
13 species in the Great Lakes region; and be it further

14 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
15 President of the United States, the President of the United States
16 Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,
17 the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the
18 Commanding General and Chief of Engineers of the United States Army
19 Corps of Engineers.