

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.160

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

1 A resolution to urge Congress and the President to support
2 federal funding for ports, harbors, and critical marine
3 infrastructure in the Great Lakes region including the Soo Locks
4 reconstruction project.

5 Whereas, The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway system is the
6 longest deep-draft waterway in the world spanning from Duluth,
7 Minnesota to the Atlantic Ocean. This commercial waterway provides
8 cost-effective and reliable transportation for cargo, including
9 iron ore, coal, steel, machinery, cement, and petroleum products



1 that are staples in everyday life—whether that be for road
2 improvements or the energy powering our cities; and

3 Whereas, The economic importance of the Great Lakes-St.
4 Lawrence Seaway system cannot be overstated. Commerce along the
5 seaway supported over 200,000 jobs and generated over \$35 billion
6 in economic activity in 2017 alone. Maintaining the ports, harbors,
7 and critical infrastructure of the seaway is necessary to protect
8 American industry and jobs; and

9 Whereas, Maintaining and updating the Soo Locks in Sault Ste.
10 Marie, Michigan is of utmost importance, not only to the residents
11 of Michigan but to all Americans. Nearly 80 percent of domestic
12 iron ore—the primary material used to manufacture steel critical to
13 the auto industry and construction—travels from mines in Minnesota
14 and Michigan's Upper Peninsula through the Soo Locks; and

15 Whereas, Even a six-month unplanned closure at the Soo Locks
16 would devastate steel, automobile, and other heavy equipment
17 production throughout North America, decreasing U.S. gross domestic
18 production by \$1.3 trillion and costing more than 11 million jobs.
19 The effect would ripple across national supply chains and
20 eventually lead to a full shut down of steel production in
21 Pennsylvania; and

22 Whereas, Congress has appropriated an initial \$32 million to
23 begin construction at the Soo Locks; however, the \$1 billion
24 project will require continued appropriation from Congress through
25 the completion of the project. The economic risk of a Soo Locks
26 closure is too great to delay funding for even one year; now,
27 therefore, be it

28 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge
29 Congress and the President to support federal funding for ports,



1 harbors, and critical marine infrastructure in the Great Lakes
2 region including the Soo Locks reconstruction project; and be it
3 further

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