

**As Reported by the House Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee**

**131st General Assembly
Regular Session
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H. R. No. 263

Representative Dovilla

**Cosponsors: Representatives Brenner, Grossman, Hackett, Hambley, Patmon,
Reineke, Schaffer, Sheehy, Sweeney, Green, Dever, Johnson, T., Ruhl**

A RESOLUTION

To encourage the President and the Congress of the 1
United States and the United States Office of 2
Management and Budget to support plans to upgrade 3
the Soo Locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan and 4
encourage the United States Army Corps of 5
Engineers to take expeditious action in preparing 6
an Economic Reevaluation Report. 7

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
OHIO:**

WHEREAS, The Soo Locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, are of the 8
utmost importance to Ohio and play a critical role in the nation's 9
economy and security. Each year, approximately 10,000 Great Lakes 10
vessels, carrying 80 million tons of iron ore, coal, grain, and other 11
cargo, safely and efficiently traverse the locks; and 12

WHEREAS, Nearly 80% of all domestic iron ore, the primary 13
material used to manufacture steel, travels from mines in Minnesota 14
and Michigan's Upper Peninsula through the Soo Locks to steel 15
producers in Ohio; and 16

WHEREAS, Only one of the four Soo Locks, the Poe Lock, is large 17
enough to accommodate the modern vessels that commonly traverse the 18
Great Lakes. 70% of cargo is carried on these large ships that can 19

only pass through the Poe Lock, and the remaining cargo must pass 20
through the smaller MacArthur Lock. The 100-year-old Davis and Sabin 21
Locks are rarely used as they are the smallest locks and cannot 22
accommodate large modern vessels; and 23

WHEREAS, The continued reliance on only the Poe Lock poses a 24
serious risk to national security and the economies of not only the 25
State of Ohio, but also the entire country. A long-term outage of the 26
Poe Lock due to lock failure or a terrorist attack could cripple the 27
economy and disrupt steel production in the United States. It is 28
estimated that a 30-day outage of the Poe Lock would result in 29
economic losses of \$160 million; and 30

WHEREAS, Upgrades to the Soo Locks are needed to ensure national 31
security and unfettered commerce through the Great Lakes. The United 32
States Army Corps of Engineers acknowledges that the Soo Locks are a 33
single point of failure for the Great Lakes Navigation System; and 34

WHEREAS, The United States Congress has authorized the 35
construction of a second Poe-sized lock, but a study that contains 36
crucial errors is preventing the construction from proceeding; now 37
therefore be it 38

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the House of Representatives of 39
the 131st General Assembly of the State of Ohio, encourage the 40
President and the Congress of the United States and the United States 41
Office of Management and Budget to support plans to upgrade the Soo 42
Locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan; and be it further 43

RESOLVED, That we encourage the United States Army Corps of 44
Engineers to take expeditious action in acknowledging the national 45
security need for maintaining the Great Lakes Navigation System in 46
addition to properly accounting for the limitation of transportation 47
resources if a lock outage occurs in the preparation of an Economic 48
Reevaluation Report; and be it further 49

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit 50
duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the President of the 51
United States, the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United 52
States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of 53
Representatives, the members of the Ohio congressional delegation, 54
the Director of the United States Office of Management and Budget, 55
and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. 56