



Representative Thomas F. Patton

H.C.R. 14 – Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

Sponsor Testimony

November 19, 2024

Chair Schaffer, Vice Chair Landis, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and members of the Committee, thank you for allowing my joint sponsor and I the opportunity to provide testimony on House Concurrent Resolution 14. This resolution urges Congress to support the reauthorization of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI).

The Great Lakes hold 21 percent of the world's surface fresh water and 84 percent of the United States' surface fresh water. As Ohioans, we must protect our own Great Lake and single largest natural resource: Lake Erie. Not only is Lake Erie a source of much-needed fresh water for Ohioans, but it brings economic activity to our state in the form of tourism, fishing, shipping, and agriculture. The GLRI benefits Ohioans by protecting both the environment and Ohio's economy. The long-term goals of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative include:

- Maintaining safe drinking water
- Protecting native fish species
- Limiting presence of invasive species

In order to meet these goals, the GLRI needs a renewal of federal funding, which the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act would provide. As a Cleveland native, I know what a powerful asset Lake Erie is for our state. This resolution passed the House with a vote of 97-0, and has encountered zero opposition. Please join me in urging Congress to continue protecting this Great Lake.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today. I am happy to answer any questions at this time.