

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge the United States Congress to enact the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2024.

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Ohio (the Senate concurring):

WHEREAS, On February 6, 2024, a group of bipartisan U.S. Senators introduced the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2024, which reauthorizes the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) for five years, from 2027 to 2031, and provides funding in the amount of \$500 million per year; and

WHEREAS, The Great Lakes are a critical resource for our nation, supporting the economy and a way of life in Ohio and the other seven states within the Great Lakes region. The Great Lakes hold 21 percent of the world's surface freshwater and 84 percent of the United States' surface freshwater. This globally significant freshwater resource provides drinking water for more than 30 million people and directly supports 1.3 million jobs, generating \$82 billion in wages; and

WHEREAS, The GLRI has provided crucial funding to support long overdue work to protect and restore the Great Lakes. In partnership with the states, local governments, and other organizations, the federal government has invested more than \$3 billion and supported over 7,000 projects since 2010. These projects have cleaned up toxic pollution, reduced runoff from cities and farms, combatted invasive species, and restored fish and wildlife habitats; and

WHEREAS, The GLRI has made a significant difference and represents a sound investment in both the environment and the economies of the Great Lakes region. A 2018 study calculated that for every federal dollar invested in Great Lakes restoration there is an additional \$3.35 created in economic activity; and

WHEREAS, Far more work needs to be done. Toxic algal blooms and hotspots contaminating water supplies along Lake Erie, invasive species threatening native species and Ohio industries, and contaminated sediments restricting recreational opportunities pose substantial limitations and threats to habitats for fish and wildlife and the use of the Great Lakes. These problems require a collaborative effort; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 135th General Assembly of the State of Ohio, in adopting this resolution, urge the United States Congress to enact the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2024, which reauthorizes the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative for five years, from 2027 to 2031; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, each member of the Ohio Congressional delegation, and the news media of Ohio.

Speaker _____ *of the House of Representatives.*

President _____ *of the Senate.*

Adopted _____, 20____