

**As Introduced**

**132nd General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2017-2018**

**S. R. No. 59**

**Senators Dolan, LaRose**

**Cosponsors: Senators Skindell, Hite, Brown, Wilson, Gardner**

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Senate of the 132nd General Assembly of the State of Ohio, encourage the President and the Congress of the United States and the United States Office of Management and Budget to support plans to upgrade the Soo Locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan; and be it further

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

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