

**As Reported by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources  
Committee**

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

**S. R. No. 59**

**Senators Dolan, LaRose**

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

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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 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 Senate of the 132nd General 39  
Assembly of the State of Ohio, encourage the President and the 40  
Congress of the United States and the United States Office of 41  
Management and Budget to support plans to upgrade the Soo Locks at 42  
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 Senate transmit duly 50  
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