



HR0620

LRB095 12794 CMK 38209 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The British Petroleum oil refinery in Whiting,  
3           Indiana is planning an expansion that would increase the  
4           refinery's discharges into Lake Michigan significantly,  
5           including 54% more ammonia (for a total discharge of 1,584  
6           pounds of ammonia per day) and 35% more sludge (for a total  
7           discharge of 4,925 pounds of sludge per day) on a daily basis,  
8           running contrary to years of efforts to clean up the Great  
9           Lakes; and

10           WHEREAS, Ammonia promotes algae blooms that can kill fish  
11           in the Lake and the sludge that will be discharged into the  
12           Lake by British Petroleum is full of concentrated heavy metals;  
13           and

14           WHEREAS, The increased discharge into the Lake runs counter  
15           to a provision of the federal Clean Water Act that prohibits  
16           any downgrade in water quality near a pollution source, such as  
17           the British Petroleum refinery; and

18           WHEREAS, Indiana State regulators are allowing British  
19           Petroleum to install equipment that mixes its toxic waste with  
20           clean lake water about 200 feet offshore, and actively diluting  
21           pollution in Lake Michigan in this way is banned under Indiana  
22           law; and

1           WHEREAS, The Indiana Department of Environmental  
2 Management granted British Petroleum the first-ever exemption  
3 to allow the pollution "mixing zone" in Lake Michigan; and

4           WHEREAS, Environmental regulators remain unsure about the  
5 ecological effects of the relatively new refining process that  
6 British Petroleum plans to use and the increased discharge into  
7 Lake Michigan; and

8           WHEREAS, The United States Environmental Protection Agency  
9 has not objected to the State of Indiana's decision to allow  
10 the increased discharge by British Petroleum; and

11           WHEREAS, States rely on the federal government to enforce  
12 interstate water quality, the federal Clean Water Act has  
13 assisted states in cleaning up polluted waters and protecting  
14 unpolluted waters, and states need new tools in addition to the  
15 existing Clean Water Act to help protect ground and surface  
16 waters from out-of-state pollution sources; and

17           WHEREAS, The federal Clean Air Act requires states to take  
18 certain actions when permitting new sources of air pollution  
19 that may increase pollution in nearby states and provides  
20 remedies for states to address air pollution coming from  
21 out-of-state sources; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
2           NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
3           strongly urge the United States Environmental Protection  
4           Agency to follow a strict interpretation of the federal Clean  
5           Water Act to minimize any additional pollution into Lake  
6           Michigan; and be it further

7           RESOLVED, That we urge the United States Environmental  
8           Protection Agency to prohibit the Whiting, Indiana British  
9           Petroleum refinery from increasing the refinery's current  
10          discharges of ammonia and sludge into Lake Michigan until the  
11          ecological and environmental impact of the increased  
12          discharges is fully understood by federal and state  
13          environmental regulators; and be it further

14          RESOLVED, That we urge the Illinois delegation to the  
15          United States Congress to take legislative action against any  
16          planned increase in the discharge of pollution into Lake  
17          Michigan that is contrary to the federal Clean Water Act and  
18          threatens the health of the environment of this State; and be  
19          it further

20          RESOLVED, That we urge the United States Congress to enact  
21          Clean Water Act legislation requiring states to take certain  
22          actions when permitting new sources of water pollution that may

1 increase pollution in nearby states and providing remedies for  
2 states to address water pollution coming from out-of-state  
3 sources; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That we urge the United States Environmental  
5 Protection Agency to strengthen federal regulations to require  
6 each state that permits a new source of water pollution to  
7 provide written notice to all nearby states whose water quality  
8 may be degraded by the new source at least 60 days before the  
9 new source begins discharging pollution; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That we encourage the federal government to take  
11 action to give one state the right to bring an action in  
12 federal court against another state that is causing or  
13 contributing to water pollution that exceeds water quality  
14 standards or otherwise adversely impacts the drinking water or  
15 recreational uses of water in the first state; and be it  
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That we urge the United States Environmental  
18 Protection Agency to increase enforcement of existing clean  
19 water laws to protect state waters from out-of-state pollution  
20 sources, especially the Clean Water Act provision that  
21 prohibits any decline in water quality even if limits on  
22 pollution discharges are met; and be it further

1           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
2 delivered to the administrator of the United States  
3 Environmental Protection Agency, Stephen L. Johnson, and to the  
4 Great Lakes National Program Manager for the United States  
5 Environmental Protection Agency, Mary A. Gade, to each member  
6 of the Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin delegations  
7 to the United States Congress, and to the governors and state  
8 legislative leaders of Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin.