



HR0620 Enrolled

LRB095 12794 CMK 38209 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION 620

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

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WHEREAS, The beaches of Lake Michigan provide a significant source of recreation, tourism, and drinking water for the State of Illinois and other states bordering the Lake; and

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WHEREAS, Last year, 81% of Illinois beaches were declared unsafe due to algae and other pollution problems; and

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WHEREAS, Ammonia promotes algae blooms that can kill fish in the Lake; and

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

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1           WHEREAS, Indiana State regulators are allowing British  
2           Petroleum to install equipment that mixes its toxic waste with  
3           clean lake water about 200 feet offshore, and actively diluting  
4           pollution in Lake Michigan in this way is banned under Indiana  
5           law; and

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

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

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

19          WHEREAS, The federal Clean Air Act requires states to take  
20          certain actions when permitting new sources of air pollution  
21          that may increase pollution in nearby states and provides  
22          remedies for states to address air pollution coming from

1 out-of-state sources; therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
3 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
4 urge British Petroleum to review and reconsider the wastewater  
5 treatment facilities proposed to serve the expansion and  
6 reconfiguration of its Whiting Refinery with the specific  
7 intent to supplement or enhance treatment efficiencies to  
8 eliminate or reduce the projected increases of ammonia nitrogen  
9 and total suspended solids discharged into Lake Michigan; and  
10 be it further

11 RESOLVED, That we strongly urge the United States  
12 Environmental Protection Agency to follow a strict  
13 interpretation of the federal Clean Water Act to minimize any  
14 additional pollution into Lake Michigan; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That we urge the United States Environmental  
16 Protection Agency to prohibit the Whiting, Indiana British  
17 Petroleum refinery from increasing the refinery's current  
18 discharges of ammonia and total suspended solids into Lake  
19 Michigan until the ecological and environmental impact of the  
20 increased discharges is fully understood by federal and state  
21 environmental regulators; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That we urge the Illinois delegation to the

1 United States Congress to take legislative action against any  
2 planned increase in the discharge of pollution into Lake  
3 Michigan that is contrary to the federal Clean Water Act and  
4 threatens the health of the environment of this State; and be  
5 it further

6 RESOLVED, That we urge the United States Congress to enact  
7 Clean Water Act legislation requiring states to take certain  
8 actions when permitting new sources of water pollution that may  
9 increase pollution in nearby states and providing remedies for  
10 states to address water pollution coming from out-of-state  
11 sources; and be it further

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

18 RESOLVED, That we encourage the federal government to take  
19 action to give one state the right to bring an action in  
20 federal court against another state that is causing or  
21 contributing to water pollution that exceeds water quality  
22 standards or otherwise adversely impacts the drinking water or  
23 recreational uses of water in the first state; and be it

1 further

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

8       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
9 delivered to the administrator of the United States  
10 Environmental Protection Agency, Stephen L. Johnson, and to the  
11 Great Lakes National Program Manager for the United States  
12 Environmental Protection Agency, Mary A. Gade, to each member  
13 of the Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin delegations  
14 to the United States Congress, and to the governors and state  
15 legislative leaders of Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin.