



HR1027

LRB095 20174 RCE 46737 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Great Lakes are a tremendous value to Illinois as an environmental and economic resource, both as the world's largest body of fresh water and as a crucial international shipping channel; and

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WHEREAS, Aquatic invasive species have caused significant damage to native environments and industrial operations in the Great Lakes and around the world; and

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WHEREAS, Current federal laws governing the introduction of aquatic invasive species into United States waters via ballast water of ocean-going ships and other sources are inadequate; and

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WHEREAS, Because of the detrimental effects of imposing regional restrictions on an international shipping channel, there is a need for federal regulation; and

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WHEREAS, There is currently no nationally accepted standard for ballast water quality nor any approved ballast treatment technologies available to ship operators; therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

1 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
2 the we have a great concern for the protection of our
3 environmental and economic resources; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That we urge the United States Congress to
5 acknowledge the national urgency of this problem and move
6 quickly to enact federal legislation to establish a strong
7 ballast water regulatory program sufficient to prevent future
8 introduction of aquatic invasive species into all United States
9 waters; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That we declare our support for the efforts of
11 the United States Coast Guard and International Maritime
12 Organization to put in place an international ballast water
13 treatment and regulatory program; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That we declare our support for the "Great Ships
15 Initiative", a research and development project funded jointly
16 by the Illinois International Port Authority and other Great
17 Lakes ports, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the
18 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and other federal
19 agencies with the goal of accelerating the development and
20 availability of ballast water treatment technology; and be it
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be presented to

1 the President of the United States, the Illinois Congressional
2 delegation, federal agencies that regulate maritime
3 transportation, and the Great Lakes Commission.