



HR1154

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The flow of the Chicago River into Lake Michigan was reversed one hundred years ago to protect the safety of drinking water for the Chicago region and to facilitate navigation and commerce through a series of locks and canals; and

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WHEREAS, In 2008, the Port of Chicago in the Chicago Area Waterway System was ranked 6th in the United States for exports to other countries by the United States Commerce Department; and

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WHEREAS, The Chicago region's five biggest exports were chemicals (\$6.1 billion), computers and electronic products (\$5.2 billion), non-electrical machinery (\$3.4 billion), transportation equipment (\$3.2 billion), and electrical equipment, appliances, and components (\$1.7 billion); and

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WHEREAS, A 2007 study commissioned by the Illinois Chamber of Commerce estimated that \$29 billion worth of petroleum, chemicals, building materials, farm products, coal, and other products and raw materials travel through the Chicago area locks and canals annually; and

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WHEREAS, The continued operation of Chicago's system of

1 locks and canals are vital to ensure its continued status as
2 the strategic transportation hub of the Midwest; and

3 WHEREAS, The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
4 and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources have enacted
5 several steps to prevent Asian carp from entering Lake
6 Michigan, including creating an electronic barrier, eDNA
7 testing, and a fish kill in December of 2009; and

8 WHEREAS, Litigation has been pursued by Great Lakes states
9 to order the closure of the locks and canals to try and prevent
10 Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes; and

11 WHEREAS, The United States Supreme Court has rejected the
12 preliminary injunction to close the Chicago Area Waterway
13 Systems' locks and canals; and

14 WHEREAS, The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
15 has proposed a schedule of lock closures and even a permanent
16 closure of the locks as one possible solution to the problem of
17 Asian carp; and

18 WHEREAS, Closing the locks would overwhelm the Chicago
19 Metropolitan Water Reclamation District tunnel system and
20 cause massive flooding, affecting more than 3 million people
21 and 1.4 million structures in Chicago and 51 surrounding

1 suburbs; and

2 WHEREAS, It is estimated that closing the locks would also
3 increase shipping costs for the Illinois agricultural
4 community by more than a half-billion dollars a year; and

5 WHEREAS, At a White House "Carp Summit" of the Great Lakes
6 states, United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) presented
7 a plan to prevent Asian carp from entering Lake Michigan,
8 outlining several scenarios including opening the locks less
9 frequently, testing, and more electronic barriers; and

10 WHEREAS, The White House is allocating \$78.5 million
11 campaign to prevent the Asian carp from gaining access to the
12 Great Lakes; the strategy will call for modifying the lock
13 operations in the Chicago Area Waterway systems; and

14 WHEREAS, Even the temporary interruption of lock traffic
15 would be absolutely devastating to our local, State, and
16 national economy; therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
18 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
19 urge the United States Army Corps of Engineers to seek
20 alternatives to the closure of the Chicago Area Waterway
21 systems of locks and canals that would not impede commerce.