

Ir\_132\_0182-1

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

**. R. No.**

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**A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

To urge the Administrator of the United States  
Environmental Protection Agency to declare the open  
waters of Western Lake Erie as impaired pursuant to  
the federal Clean Water Act.

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
OHIO (THE SENATE CONCURRING):**

WHEREAS, The federal Clean Water Act requires each state to  
assess and identify waters within its boundaries that fail to  
meet the state's water quality standards and submit a list of  
impaired waters to the United States Environmental Protection  
Agency (USEPA); and

WHEREAS, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA)  
submitted a list of impaired waters to USEPA that did not  
include the open waters of Lake Erie's Western Basin, declining  
to evaluate whether those waters met water quality standards  
despite the fact that toxic algal blooms have occurred in the  
open waters of Lake Erie and are reasonably likely to continue;  
and

WHEREAS, Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality  
included the open waters of Lake Erie within Michigan's  
jurisdiction on its list of impaired waters that it submitted to



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USEPA, and USEPA approved that list; and 20

WHEREAS, Lake Erie is facing a water quality crisis and has 21  
been plagued by pollution, including phosphorous pollution from 22  
manure, commercial fertilizer, sewage plants, septic systems, 23  
and other sources that harm Lake Erie's water quality and 24  
produce serious adverse conditions, rendering it unsafe for 25  
recreation and for use as drinking water; and 26

WHEREAS, One such serious adverse condition includes the 27  
growth of algal blooms that produce toxins that can make people 28  
seriously ill and sicken and kill domestic animals and aquatic 29  
life, lower the value of properties belonging to citizens and 30  
businesses along the lakeshore, negatively impact sport 31  
fisheries, and greatly reduce Lake Erie's potential as an 32  
attractive tourist destination; and 33

WHEREAS, USEPA regulations require states to assemble and 34  
evaluate all existing and readily available water quality 35  
related data and information; and 36

WHEREAS, Despite these regulations and OEPA's knowledge 37  
that harmful algal blooms have impaired the water quality of 38  
Lake Erie's open waters in the Western Basin, OEPA did not 39  
include these waters in its list of impaired waters; now 40  
therefore be it 41

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 132nd General 42  
Assembly of the State of Ohio, urge the Administrator of the 43  
USEPA to declare the Western Basin of Lake Erie impaired 44  
pursuant to the federal Clean Water Act; and be it further 45

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 46  
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the 47  
Director of OEPA, the Administrator of USEPA, the Ohio 48  
Congressional delegation, the news media of Ohio, and all wire 49  
services available through the Ohio State House. 50