

**HOUSE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_**

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**DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging all relevant agencies and stakeholders to work collaboratively to explore extending the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence Seaway navigation season to advance Indiana’s economic prosperity, grow exports, and support Hoosier jobs.

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**Abbott, O’Brien, Moseley**

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\_\_\_\_\_, re ad first time and referred to Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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1       A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging all relevant  
2 agencies and stakeholders to work collaboratively to explore  
3 extending the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence Seaway navigation  
4 season to advance Indiana’s economic prosperity, grow exports,  
5 and support Hoosier jobs.

6       *Whereas, The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway connects*  
7 *Indiana to world markets and carries critical shipments for*  
8 *steelmaking, agriculture, construction, manufacturing, and*  
9 *energy production;*

10       *Whereas, The locks on the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway*  
11 *have been closing for three months each year during the winter*  
12 *since the 1950s, while other global shipping routes have*  
13 *instituted best practices to maintain operations during harsh*  
14 *winter conditions;*

15       *Whereas, Indiana has the largest maritime economy of all*  
16 *eight Great Lakes states and accounts for 57% of the U.S.*  
17 *economic impacts based on Great Lakes shipping;*

18       *Whereas, Advancements in shipping technology, ice*  
19 *breaking, and infrastructure now offer opportunities to extend*  
20 *the navigation season, increasing efficiency and supporting*  
21 *year-round employment for Hoosiers;*

22       *Whereas, Indiana’s ports and maritime industry generate*  
23 *nearly \$30 billion annually for the state’s economy, supporting*  
24 *more than 158,000 jobs and \$11.5 billion in personal income;*



1       *Whereas, The annual three-month closure of this important*  
 2       *shipping channel disrupts supply chain, forces layoffs, and*  
 3       *limits growth for businesses, ports, and employment;*

4       *Whereas, Ports of Indiana-Burns Harbor is the state's only*  
 5       *public port on the Great Lakes, handling over 3 million tons of*  
 6       *cargo annually and serving as a shipping hub for steel,*  
 7       *agriculture, and manufacturing sectors;*

8       *Whereas, Ports of Indiana has launched a new container*  
 9       *shipping initiative and multiple international trade partnerships*  
 10       *with ports in Ireland, Belgium, and Canada that will be*  
 11       *constrained by the winter closure of the Great Lakes shipping*  
 12       *channel;*

13       *Whereas, Extending the shipping season would reduce*  
 14       *congestion on highway and rail systems, lower transportation*  
 15       *emissions, and enhance Indiana's global competitiveness;*

16       *Whereas, The Great Lakes are a unique international*  
 17       *waterway that will require a collaborative effort between the*  
 18       *U.S. and Canada to extend the shipping season by addressing*  
 19       *many challenges related to ice breaking, lock maintenance,*  
 20       *environmental impacts, First Nation rights, regional*  
 21       *economies, shipbuilding, and critical supply chains; and*

22       *Whereas, Evaluating an extension of the navigation season*  
 23       *requires coordination among federal, state, and local agencies,*  
 24       *including the Ports of Indiana, the U.S. Army Corps of*  
 25       *Engineers, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the Great Lakes-St.*  
 26       *Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation: Therefore,*

27               *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives*  
 28               *of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana,*  
 29               *the Senate concurring:*

SECTION 1. The Indiana General Assembly urges all relevant agencies and stakeholders to work collaboratively to explore extending the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence Seaway navigation season to advance Indiana's economic prosperity, grow exports, and support Hoosier jobs.

SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit copies of this resolution



to the Governor of Indiana, the Ports of Indiana, the Indiana Department of Transportation, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, Indiana Representatives on Great Lakes Associations and Commissions, and the Indiana Congressional Delegation.

