

**HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

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.

Abbott, O’Brien, Moseley

_____, re ad first time and referred to Committee on



HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. _____

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.

