



## **H.Con.Res. 187 – Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the dumping of industrial waste into the Great Lakes**

### **Floor Situation**

H.Con.Res. 187 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Rahm Emanuel (D-IL) on July 18, 2007. The bill was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, but was not considered.

H.Con.Res. 187 is expected to be considered by the House of Representatives on July 24, 2007.

### **Summary**

H.Con.Res. 187 resolves that:

- Congress expresses its disapproval of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's issuance of a permit allowing BP to increase their daily dumping of ammonia and total suspended solids into Lake Michigan;
- Congress urges the State of Indiana to reconsider issuance of a permit allowing BP to increase their daily dumping of ammonia and total suspended solids into Lake Michigan;
- Congress should take action to protect and restore the Great Lakes;
- The United States Environmental Protection Agency's actions in the Great Lakes basin should be consistent with the goal of preserving and restoring the Great Lakes; and,
- The United States Environmental Protection Agency should not allow increased dumping of chemicals and pollutants into the Great Lakes.

### **Background**

The Great Lakes account for 95 percent of the United States' surface fresh water and about 21 percent of the world's supply. The Great Lakes provide drinking water for more than 30 million Americans.

Congress has expressed its commitment to protecting the Great Lakes from pollutants and contaminants through the Clean Water Act and subsequent legislation. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Environment Canada joined together in promulgating the Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy to eliminate the presence of persistent toxic substances in the Great Lakes basin

According to the text of the Resolution, the Great Lakes are plagued by pollutants such as mercury, PCBs, ammonia, DDT, alkylated lead, hexachlorobenzene, TCDD, toxaphene, and other toxins.

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management issued a permit to BP PLC to allow their facility in Whiting, IN, to release 54 percent more ammonia and 35 percent more total suspended solids into Lake Michigan each day. The additional dumpage is the maximum allowed under federal guidelines.

**Cost**

H.Con.Res. 187 has not been scored by the Congressional Budget Office.

**Staff Contact**

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