

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2973

To impose a moratorium on the export of bulk fresh water from the Great
Lakes Basin.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 29, 1999

Mr. CAMP (for himself, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. KNOLLENBERG,
Mr. SMITH of Michigan, and Mr. UPTON) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To impose a moratorium on the export of bulk fresh water
from the Great Lakes Basin.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds that—

5 (1) the waters and water-dependent natural re-
6 sources of the Great Lakes Basin are precious public
7 resources, held in trust by the Great Lakes States
8 and the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec;

1 (2) authority over the Great Lakes is vested in
2 the Governors of the Great Lakes States by the
3 Water Resources Development Act of 1986;

4 (3) the Great Lakes Charter of 1985 is a vol-
5 untary international agreement that provides the
6 procedural framework for notice and consultation by
7 the Great Lakes States and the Canadian provinces
8 concerning the withdrawal of water from the Great
9 Lakes Basin;

10 (4) the Governors of the Great Lakes States, in
11 exercise of their authority under the Water Re-
12 sources Development Act of 1986, and the premiers
13 of the Canadian provinces have based decisions on
14 proposals to withdraw, divert, or use waters from
15 the Great Lakes Basin on the extent to which such
16 proposals conserve and protect waters and water-de-
17 pendent resources of the Great Lakes Basin;

18 (5) decisionmaking must remain vested in the
19 Governors of the Great Lakes States and the pre-
20 miers of the Canadian provinces, who currently man-
21 age the Great Lakes Basin on a day-to-day basis;

22 (6) demand for clean and fresh water is grow-
23 ing around the world and bulk exports pose a unique
24 challenge to the management of the Great Lakes;
25 and

1 (7) the ecological effects of bulk exports of
2 water from the Great Lakes are unknown, and there
3 is presently no credible means of regulating such ex-
4 ports on a binational basis.

5 **SEC. 2. MORATORIUM ON EXPORTS OF BULK FRESH**
6 **WATER.**

7 (a) **MORATORIUM ON EXPORTS.**—No bulk fresh
8 water from the Great Lakes Basin may be exported from
9 the United States.

10 (b) **LIFTING OF MORATORIUM.**—Subsection (a) shall
11 cease to apply on the earlier of—

12 (1) December 31, 2001; or

13 (2) the effective date of an Act of Congress ap-
14 proving an agreement among the Great Lakes States
15 to implement a mechanism that provides for a com-
16 mon conservation standard to make decisions con-
17 cerning the withdrawal and use of water from the
18 Great Lakes Basin.

19 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

20 As used in this Act—

21 (1) the term “bulk fresh water” means fresh
22 water extracted in amounts intended for transpor-
23 tation by tanker or similar form of mass transpor-
24 tation, without further processing;

1 (2) the term “Great Lakes Basin” means the
2 water within Lakes Erie, Huron, Michigan, Ontario,
3 St. Clair, and Superior, within interconnecting wa-
4 terways, within all other watercourses draining into
5 and between those lakes, and within all tributary
6 surface and underground channels or areas which
7 drain into or comprise part of any watershed drain-
8 ing into any of those lakes; and

9 (3) the term “Great Lakes State” means each
10 of the States of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Min-
11 nesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wis-
12 consin.

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