

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1747

To authorize appropriations for the design, acquisition, and construction of a combined buoy tender-icebreaker to replace icebreaking capacity on the Great Lakes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 26, 2009

Mr. OBERSTAR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To authorize appropriations for the design, acquisition, and construction of a combined buoy tender-icebreaker to replace icebreaking capacity on the Great Lakes.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Great Lakes Ice-
5 breaker Replacement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) five of the Coast Guard’s Great Lakes ice-
9 breakers are nearing the end of their useful lives;

1 (2) two other Coast Guard icebreaking assets
2 have experienced difficulty in heavy ice conditions;

3 (3) during the spring of 2008, United States-
4 flag vessels operating on the Great Lakes suffered
5 more than \$1,300,000 in damages to their hulls be-
6 cause the Coast Guard did not have enough assets
7 available to keep Great Lakes shipping lanes open;

8 (4) during the 2006–2007 ice season, ship-
9 ments of iron ore, coal, and limestone on the Great
10 Lakes exceeded 20,000,000 tons;

11 (5) during the 2006–2007 ice season, the trans-
12 portation of 10,400,000 tons of iron ore on the
13 Great Lakes helped support 100,000 jobs at steel
14 mills and 300,000 jobs at supplier industries by
15 keeping those industries working during the winter
16 season; and

17 (6) the 6,400,000 tons of coal shipped on the
18 Great Lakes during the 2006–2007 ice season kept
19 the Great Lakes region supplied with electricity.

20 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

21 There is authorized to be appropriated \$153,000,000
22 for necessary expenses of the Coast Guard for the design,
23 acquisition, and construction of a combined buoy tender-

- 1 icebreaker to replace icebreaking capacity on the Great
- 2 Lakes, to remain available until expended.

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