



H.R. 6460 – Great Lakes Legacy Reauthorization Act of 2008, as amended

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 6460 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 Vernon Ehlers (R-MI) on July 10, 2008. The House passed H.R. 6460 on September 18, 2008, by a vote of 371-20. The Senate passed the bill with an amendment by unanimous consent on September 25, 2008.

H.R. 6460 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 27, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 6460 as amended authorizes the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in collaboration with non-Federal sponsors, to carry out projects aimed at cleaning up certain areas of the Great Lakes where contamination has settled into sediments at the bottom of the lakes. The bill authorizes the appropriation of \$50 million for each of the fiscal years 2009-2010 for this purpose.

The bill also authorizes \$3 million for each of the fiscal years 2009-2010 for EPA to conduct research on the development and use of innovative methods for cleaning up the Great Lakes.

BACKGROUND

The Great Lakes Legacy Act (P.L. 107-33) was enacted in 2002 and authorized \$395 million over five years for various Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) activities to clean up the Great Lakes. These authorizations are set to expire at the end of 2008. The Act provided this funding to clean up contaminated sediment in specific "Areas of Concern" located wholly or partially in the United States. 43 areas have been identified - 26 located entirely within the United States, 12 located wholly within Canada, and five that are shared by both countries. The Great Lakes clean-up program is administered by the EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office.

The Great Lakes Basin is home to over 30 million Americans. The Great Lakes region includes all of Michigan and part of Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. In 2004, President Bush signed an Executive Order recognizing the Great Lakes as a "national treasure."

[Environmental Protection Agency – Great Lakes](#)

COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has not produced a cost estimate for this legislation as of September 27, 2008.

STAFF CONTACT

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