

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5764

To authorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 20, 2014

Mr. JOYCE (for himself, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. DINGELL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To authorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and
for other purposes.

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 Restora-
5 tion Initiative Act of 2014”.

6 **SEC. 2. GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE.**

7 Section 118(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Con-
8 trol Act (33 U.S.C. 1268(c)) is amended by striking para-
9 graph (7) and inserting the following:

1 “(7) GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIA-
2 TIVE.—

3 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is estab-
4 lished in the Agency a Great Lakes Restoration
5 Initiative (referred to in this paragraph as the
6 ‘Initiative’) to carry out programs and projects
7 for Great Lakes protection and restoration.

8 “(B) FOCUS AREAS.—The Initiative shall
9 prioritize programs and projects carried out in
10 coordination with non-Federal partners and
11 programs and projects that address priority
12 areas each fiscal year, including—

13 “(i) the remediation of toxic sub-
14 stances and areas of concern;

15 “(ii) the prevention and control of
16 invasive species and the impacts of invasive
17 species;

18 “(iii) the protection and restoration of
19 nearshore health and the prevention and
20 mitigation of nonpoint source pollution;

21 “(iv) habitat and wildlife protection
22 and restoration, including wetlands res-
23 toration and preservation; and

1 “(v) accountability, monitoring, eval-
2 uation, communication, and partnership
3 activities.

4 “(C) PROJECTS.—Under the Initiative, the
5 Agency shall collaborate with Federal partners,
6 including the Great Lakes Interagency Task
7 Force, to select the best combination of pro-
8 grams and projects for Great Lakes protection
9 and restoration using appropriate principles
10 and criteria, including whether a program or
11 project provides—

12 “(i) the ability to achieve strategic
13 and measurable environmental outcomes
14 that implement the Great Lakes Action
15 Plan and the Great Lakes Water Quality
16 Agreement;

17 “(ii) the feasibility of—

18 “(I) prompt implementation;

19 “(II) timely achievement of re-
20 sults; and

21 “(III) resource leveraging; and

22 “(iii) the opportunity to improve
23 interagency and inter-organizational co-
24 ordination and collaboration to reduce du-
25 plication and streamline efforts.

1 “(D) IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS.—

2 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Funds made avail-
3 able to carry out the Initiative shall be
4 used to strategically implement—

5 “(I) Federal projects; and

6 “(II) projects carried out in co-
7 ordination with States, Indian tribes,
8 municipalities, institutions of higher
9 education, and other organizations.

10 “(ii) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—With
11 amounts made available for the Initiative
12 each fiscal year, the Administrator may—

13 “(I) transfer not more than
14 \$300,000,000 to the head of any Fed-
15 eral department or agency, with the
16 concurrence of the department or
17 agency head, to carry out activities to
18 support the Initiative and the Great
19 Lakes Water Quality Agreement; and

20 “(II) enter into an interagency
21 agreement with the head of any Fed-
22 eral department or agency to carry
23 out activities described in subclause
24 (I).

25 “(E) SCOPE.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Projects shall be
2 carried out under the Initiative on multiple
3 levels, including—

4 “(I) Great Lakes-wide; and

5 “(II) Great Lakes basin-wide.

6 “(ii) LIMITATION.—No funds made
7 available to carry out the Initiative may be
8 used for any water infrastructure activity
9 (other than a green infrastructure project
10 that improves habitat and other ecosystem
11 functions in the Great Lakes) for which
12 amounts are made available from—

13 “(I) a State water pollution con-
14 trol revolving fund established under
15 title VI; or

16 “(II) a State drinking water re-
17 volving loan fund established under
18 section 1452 of the Safe Drinking
19 Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j–12).

20 “(F) ACTIVITIES BY OTHER FEDERAL
21 AGENCIES.—Each relevant Federal department
22 or agency shall, to the maximum extent prac-
23 ticable—

24 “(i) maintain the base level of funding
25 for the Great Lakes activities of that de-

1 partment or agency without regard to
2 funding under the Initiative; and

3 “(ii) identify new activities and
4 projects to support the environmental goals
5 of the Initiative.

6 “(G) FUNDING.—There is authorized to be
7 appropriated to carry out the Initiative
8 \$300,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015
9 through 2019.”.

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