

amendment is a step in the right direction and would send a strong signal to those eager to exploit Great Lakes resources.

People in Wisconsin and other Great Lakes States are blessed to have the world's most pristine lakes and fresh water resources in our backyard. We get our drinking water from them, our kids swim in them, and our tourism industry depends on them. Because the Great Lakes are such an important part of our daily lives, we are not willing to gamble with this precious resource for short-term gain.

I urge my colleagues' support of this amendment. Please stand with us to protect the Great Lakes from environmental hazard and degradation.

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG), a member of our subcommittee.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the amendment. The amendment is overly broad and would prohibit all agencies in the Energy and Water bill including the Corps of Engineers, the Department of Energy, and a portion of the Department of the Interior from expending funds for drilling in the Great Lakes. I have concerns that needed grants from these Federal agencies would be cut off as a result of this amendment. This is another attempt by the amendment's author and others to shift decision-making authority over the Great Lakes to the Federal Government, just like the water management issue. They would rather have bureaucrats in Washington to manage our resources than those of us who actually live there. I do not think that is right.

The issue is under the jurisdiction of the State of Michigan and our State legislature and the governments of all the Great Lakes States. This is not just a Michigan issue. The Michigan State legislature has made a decision that this will be handled by State agencies, including the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Natural Resources, and the State's Natural Resources Commission.

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They have made this decision on their own, free from Federal interference, which is as it should be. In fact, my home State of Michigan is not alone in this sentiment. It is shared by others. In a letter from the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, and I have a letter here, which has 30 of our Nation's 50 States as members, this letter went to EPA administrator Christie Todd Whitman, who writes, "The member States of the IOGCC regard drilling beneath the Great Lakes and protection of the environment in relation to that drilling to be matters that are

within the exclusive jurisdiction of the States and not the United States EPA or other Federal agencies."

This amendment would be counter to the belief of the IOGCC and the majority of States in our Union. Remember again, there are 30 States involved here.

Mr. Chairman, directional drilling should not be confused with offshore drilling. Directional drilling sites are inland. In the State of Michigan, they are prohibited from being closer than 1,500 feet from the shoreline. Conversely, offshore drilling done from ships or rigs directly in the water is prohibited by State law in five of the eight Great Lakes States.

In 1997, the Michigan Environmental Science Board concluded directional drilling posed little or no risk to the contamination to the Great Lakes. Since 1979, there have been no accidents and no significant impact to the environment or public health. I think the evidence shows clearly that directional drilling is safe and an effective procedure and does not warrant any kind of Federal encroachment. State geologists estimate the production of new oil and gas resources from the Great Lakes could provide, contrary to what one might have heard, as much as \$100 million to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, the State's sole source of funds for land acquisitions, recreational projects, and natural resource development projects.

The revenue produced by leasing of land for drilling is crucial; and without it, state-owned natural resources could be taken without compensation by private wells drilled along the State of Michigan shorelines and the other States as well; on private lands, I might add.

Furthermore, I believe directional drilling can be done in an environmentally safe manner, and it may be one solution, one solution, to some of our energy woes.

This amendment is counterproductive because our Nation, particularly those in California, are currently experiencing an energy supply shortage and prohibiting directional drilling in the Great Lakes would cut off a critical supply source.

Mr. Chairman, this amendment is little more than an example of mission creep by which the Federal Government slowly, slowly gains more and more authority. This mission creep amendment should not pass this House. I urge Members to oppose this amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Committee will rise informally.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS) assumed the Chair.

SUNDRY MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sundry messages in writing from the President of the United States were

communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

The Committee resumed its sitting.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK).

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Chairman, first I want to commend the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CALLAHAN) for restoring funding for renewable energy in this bill.

With regard to contamination of Lake Michigan, we have had the Rock Gobie, the Fish Hook Flea, alewife, nuclear waste and PCBs. Lake Michigan has had enough. We killed Lake Erie in the 1960s and nearly killed Lake Michigan. The Great Lakes are home to half of the world's supply of fresh water. It is one of our Nation's greatest environmental treasures. I strongly support the Bonior-LaTourette bipartisan amendment and am totally committed to Lake Michigan's environment and urge Members to support this worthy goal.

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I might point out that the purpose of this debate, what the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) is attempting to do, is to restrict the Corps of Engineers from granting any further permits for this venture.

This is what the Corps of Engineers is all about. The Corps of Engineers is there to protect the environment, to make absolutely certain that everything with respect to any type of activity on the lake is in the best interest of the environment and of the American people and the area.

So I would beg to differ that the permitting process on this is not taking place, because it is. They cannot do it without permits. If the gentleman's amendment is adopted, the Corps would be prevented from issuing the permits, resulting in a halting of further exploration.

I might say that every day we hear in these 1-minutes the Members of the minority talking about the energy crisis, and this is an opportunity to do something about the energy crisis while not doing anything to harm the environment. So I would urge the Members to pay close attention to what this debate is all about.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON).

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Chairman, I would join my Michigan Republican colleagues who have spoken in support of this amendment, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CAMP) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA), also in support of the amendment.