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A resolution by Supervisors Sartori, Nicholson, Alexander, and Wasserman, supporting and urging the United States Congress to fully protect our Great Lakes, and to restore all funding for The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, an expenditure that has been cut from President Trump’s budget blueprint, by recommending adoption of the following:

**A RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes are the largest freshwater system on Earth, making up 21 percent of the planet’s freshwater; and

WHEREAS, Lake Superior is the second largest lake on the planet; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (NOAA GLERL), the Great Lakes provide drinking water for 40 million people, and provide 56 billion gallons of water per day for municipal, agricultural, and industrial use; and

WHEREAS, according to NOAA GLERL, the Great Lakes is home to 250 species of fish, and also supports a \$4 billion sports fishery industry; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes also supports 1.5 million United States jobs, and \$62 billion in wages each year, per a University of Michigan study; and

WHEREAS, The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) was launched in 2010, with bipartisan support, to accelerate efforts to protect and restore the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, the GLRI is focused on the most significant ecosystem problems affecting the Great Lakes, which include cleaning up Areas of Concern, preventing and controlling invasive species, reducing nutrient runoff contributing to harmful algal blooms, and restoring habitat to protect native species; and

WHEREAS, the GLRI has a history of bipartisan, multi-sector, community-based support; and

WHEREAS, in December 2016, the GLRI funding was re-authorized by Congress; and

WHEREAS, in March 2017, President Trump’s budget blueprint, America First A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again, eliminates the \$300 million in annual funding for the GLRI; and

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WHEREAS, President Trump's budget blueprint also proposes to cut the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) budget by 31 percent, from \$8.3 billion in fiscal year 2017 to \$5.7 billion in fiscal year 2018; and

WHEREAS, cuts to Great Lakes funding could exacerbate the threats of climate change, pollution, massive water withdrawals, sewage and storm water run-off, groundwater contamination, invasive species, and wetlands destruction, which presently hinder the health and future of the Great Lakes' waters; and

WHEREAS, Governor Walker opposes and spoke out against President Trump's proposed elimination of the GLRI, stating "The Great Lakes are an incredible asset... an asset from a commercial standpoint in terms of fishing and tourism, but also in general in terms of quality of life"; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes are vital to our shared ecosystem in Milwaukee County (the County), the State of Wisconsin, the Midwest Region, and our country as a whole; and

WHEREAS, Lake Michigan is central to the economic prosperity of the County, and crucial to the livelihoods of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, the City of Milwaukee is recognized by the United Nations as a hub for fresh water sciences and technology; and

WHEREAS, the County has a responsibility to protect the Great Lakes for all people, and to voice opposition to the proposed budgetary actions of President Trump; and

WHEREAS, the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, at its meeting of June 16, 2017, recommended adoption of File No. 17-391 (vote 5-0); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board) supports and urges the United States (U.S.) Congress to fully protect our Great Lakes, and to restore all funding for The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, an expenditure that has been cut from President Trump's budget blueprint; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board's Legislative Liaison of the Office of Government Affairs is authorized and directed to deliver a copy of this request to the President of the U.S., the Wisconsin Congressional Delegation, the National Association of Counties, National League of Cities, and Wisconsin Counties Association.

jmj  
06/16/17  
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