



RESOLUTION
Adopted Oct. 3, 2018

Support for Advancing Construction of a Second Poe-Sized Soo Lock

Whereas, the Soo Locks provide reliable access to raw materials used in agriculture, food production, manufacturing, steel production, power generation, and other industries nationwide and are a key component of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence maritime transportation system, with nearly 100 percent of the iron ore needed for U.S. steel production passing through the Soo Locks; and

Whereas, in 2017, 76 million tons of cargo valued at \$5.8 billion passed through the Soo locks, generating \$22.6 billion in economic activity in Canada and the United States and supporting more than 123,000 jobs in the two countries;

Whereas, currently only the Poe Lock can handle the largest vessels, with 89 percent of all cargo passing through the Soo locks limited to the single Poe Lock; and

Whereas, our sole reliance on the single 50-year-old Poe Lock puts our regional and national economies at risk, with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) describing the Soo Locks as the “the Achilles heel of the North American industrial economy;” and

Whereas, DHS has projected that a six-month, unplanned closure of the Poe Lock would result in a nearly complete shutdown of regional steel production, 11 million job losses in the United States and 5 million in Canada and Mexico, a severe recession, and a \$1.1 trillion decrease in national GDP; and

Whereas, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently completed a Soo Locks Economic Validation Report that documents and establishes a benefit-cost ratio of 2.42 from the construction of a new Soo lock, thereby setting the stage for an updated authorization for the project; and

Whereas, the Great Lakes Commission has supported the construction of a second, 1,200-foot-long “Poe-sized” lock since the project was first authorized in the Water Resources Development Act of 1986; and

Whereas, Congress recognized the national and international economic interest in a second full-sized lock in the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, which authorized full federal funding of the project; and

Whereas, with efficient funding, the building of a second large lock at the Soo from two obsolete smaller locks may take as long as 10 years from the time construction is initiated, thus further placing the economies of the United States and Canada in an extended period of risk; and

Whereas, *America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018*, legislation anticipated to be passed before the end of 2018, Congress is expected to formally authorize construction of a new large Soo lock consistent with the Economic Validation Study and Post-Authorization Change Report released by the Army Corps of Engineers in June 2018, with an authorized cost of \$922 million.

*Adopted at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes Commission, Oct. 2-3, 2018 in Indianapolis, Indiana.
This resolution was passed unanimously.*

Therefore, Be it Resolved, that the Great Lakes Commission urges the President to include the maximum amount of annual funding that the Army Corps of Engineers can execute each year on construction of a new large Soo lock in the FY 2020 and subsequent budget requests, and urges Congress to appropriate the requested funding.

Be it Finally Resolved, that the Great Lakes Commission urges the Army Corps of Engineers to allocate funding from the FY 2019 workplan to complete the design and begin construction of the new Soo lock.