

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1024

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

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 21, 2015

Mr. KIRK (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

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## 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 2015”.

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 2016  
9           through 2020.”.

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