

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2595

To place a moratorium on the export of bulk fresh water until certain conditions are met.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 22, 1999

Mr. STUPAK (for himself, Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. QUINN, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. UPTON, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. BARCIA, Mr. KLINK, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. LAFALCE, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mr. GILLMOR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To place a moratorium on the export of bulk fresh water until certain conditions are met.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds that—

5 (1) the water resources of the Great Lakes
6 Basin are precious public natural resources, shared
7 and held in trust by the Great Lakes States and the
8 Canadian Provinces;

1 (2) the Great Lakes and other fresh water re-
2 sources of the United States are renewable but finite
3 waters that must be protected, conserved, and man-
4 aged for the use, benefit, and enjoyment of all citi-
5 zens and future generations;

6 (3) the Great Lakes comprise almost 20 percent
7 of the world's fresh water supply;

8 (4) global water demand is doubling every 21
9 years; and

10 (5) any bulk exportation of waters from the
11 Great Lakes or other fresh water sources could have
12 unintended consequences with respect to inter-
13 national treaties and significant adverse effects on
14 the environment, economy, and welfare of the Great
15 Lakes and other fresh water regions.

16 **SEC. 2. MORATORIUM ON EXPORT OF BULK FRESH WATER.**

17 (a) **MORATORIUM ON EXPORTS.**—No bulk fresh
18 water may be exported from the United States.

19 (b) **LIFTING OF MORATORIUM.**—Subsection (a) shall
20 cease to apply when—

21 (1) the International Joint Commission, as di-
22 rected by the Governments of the United States and
23 Canada on February 10, 1999, issues its final report
24 on the use, diversion, and removal of waters along
25 the border of the United States and Canada; and

1 (2) the United States Government, after the
2 issuance of the report under paragraph (1), has en-
3 acted legislation that has taken effect, or issued reg-
4 ulations that have taken effect and—

5 (A) implements or implement, as the case
6 may be, measures designed to protect and pre-
7 serve in perpetuity the fresh water resources of
8 the United States and their ecosystems, includ-
9 ing the Great Lakes Basin;

10 (B) specifically regulates or regulate, as
11 the case may be, any resumption of exports of
12 bulk fresh water; and

13 (C) in the case of regulations, are certified
14 to the Congress as meeting the requirements of
15 subparagraph (A).

16 **SEC. 3. DEFINITION.**

17 As used in this Act, the term “bulk fresh water”
18 means fresh water extracted from a lake, river, stream,
19 spring, well, aquifer, glacier, or other natural source of
20 fresh water, or ground water, in amounts intended for
21 transportation by tanker or similar form of mass transpor-
22 tation, without further processing. The term does not in-
23 clude drinking water in containers intended for personal
24 consumption.

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