

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5516

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to prohibit the discharge of dredged material into the Great Lakes, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2014

Mr. LATTA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to prohibit the discharge of dredged material into the Great Lakes, 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 “Protecting Our Great
5 Lakes Act of 2014”.

6 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON DISCHARGE OF DREDGED MATE-**
7 **RIAL INTO THE GREAT LAKES SYSTEM.**

8 Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control
9 Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “The Sec-
2 retary may” and inserting “Except as provided in
3 subsection (u), the Secretary may”;

4 (2) in subsection (f)—

5 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “in para-
6 graph (2)” and inserting “in paragraphs (2)
7 and (3)”;

8 (B) by adding at the end the following new
9 paragraph:

10 “(3) Any discharge of dredged material into the
11 open waters of the Great Lakes is prohibited.”;

12 (3) in subsection (r), by striking “The dis-
13 charge” and inserting “Except as provided in sub-
14 section (u), the discharge”; and

15 (4) by adding at the end the following new sub-
16 section:

17 “(u) PROHIBITION ON DISCHARGE OF DREDGED MA-
18 TERIAL INTO THE OPEN WATERS OF THE GREAT
19 LAKES.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary (or a State
21 in the case of a State program approved under this
22 section) may not issue a permit for the discharge of
23 dredged material into the open waters of the Great
24 Lakes.

25 “(2) DISPOSAL AREAS.—

1 “(A) Any dredged material resulting from
2 activity in the Great Lakes System (as defined
3 in section 118 of this Act) shall be reused in
4 beneficial ways on land or disposed of in a con-
5 fined land-based or confined water-based dis-
6 posal area determined to be economically and
7 environmentally viable by the Secretary in con-
8 sultation with concerned States.

9 “(B) Any person who violates subpara-
10 graph (A) shall be treated as having violated a
11 condition or limitation set forth in a permit
12 issued under this section.

13 “(3) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this sec-
14 tion, the term ‘open waters of the Great Lakes’
15 means all of the waters within Lake Erie, Lake
16 Huron (including Lake St. Clair), Lake Michigan,
17 Lake Ontario, and Lake Superior lakeward from a
18 line drawn across the mouth of tributaries to the
19 Lakes, including all waters enclosed by constructed
20 breakwaters, but not including the connecting chan-
21 nels.”.

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