

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATORS DIXON, LORIGO, MILLS & RATH**

Support for Great Lakes and Human Service Initiatives Funding

WHEREAS, Lake Erie is one of the five Great Lakes in North America, and bonds the states of New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Ohio, and the United States with Canada; and

WHEREAS, numerous funding sources from federal and state agencies and grants work to maintain Lake Erie and the surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, federal funding proposals have reduced allocations that would directly impact Lake Erie initiatives and the residents surrounding the lake; and

WHEREAS, the proposed budget for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, which assists in eliminating threats to the Great Lakes ecosystem, is largely responsible for the Buffalo River cleanup, restoring fish and wildlife habitats and combating invasive species, could be reduced from \$300 million to \$30 in funding for the next fiscal year ; and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers oversees water resources in three states: Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York, and has been serving the lower Great Lakes since 1857; and

WHEREAS, the proposed total budget for the Army Corps of Engineers could be cut by a third, while the proposed budget includes \$4.3 billion in discretionary funding for the Civil Works program, and sets aside \$22.02 million for Buffalo District projects; and

WHEREAS, the Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant program provides localities with funds and resources for the most vulnerable in our community and to create jobs and expand infrastructure and retain businesses; and

WHEREAS, the proposed budget would eliminate the Community Development Block Grant which provides millions in funding to many projects across Erie County every year; and

WHEREAS, the proposed budget would eliminate the Home Energy Assistance Program that assists low-income people pay the cost of heating their homes, and significantly reduce funding for Medicare and Medicaid.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, this Honorable Body supports the continuing the Fiscal Year 2018 funding levels into Fiscal Year 2019; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to Hon. Chris Collins, Hon. Brian Higgins, and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

Fiscal Impact: None for this resolution