



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the locks at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, provide a vital link between Lake Superior and the other Great Lakes and the rest of the world; and,

WHEREAS, United States, Canadian, and other foreign flag cargo vessels make over 3,000 passages through the Soo Locks each year, carrying more than 60 million tons of iron ore, stone, low-sulfur coal, grain, cement, and other cargoes; and,

WHEREAS, the locks are of the utmost importance to the region's economy and play a critical role in our national defense, by accommodating 80 percent of the raw materials used by United States steel manufacturers; and,

WHEREAS, the one-of-a-kind, 50 year-old Poe Lock is the only lock capable of accommodating the largest Great Lakes vessels which carry 86 percent of all cargo passing through the locks and account for 3.2% of the total U. S. gross domestic product; and

WHEREAS, a six month unscheduled closure of the Soo Locks would result in a \$1.1 trillion decrease in the gross domestic product, 11 million job losses in the U. S., and a nearly complete shutdown of the nation's integrated steel, auto, appliance, and other equipment manufacturing; and

WHEREAS, Congress authorized construction of a new lock in 1986 and further authorized full federal funding in 2007, but has not yet provided the estimated \$600 million to fund construction of the lock; and,

WHEREAS, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2010 completed preliminary construction activities including building cofferdams and deepening the approach channel; and,

WHEREAS, construction of the new lock will not only ensure the free flow of vital cargoes moving on the Great Lakes for decades to come, but will also generate thousands of construction jobs and spur economic activity throughout the region.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mid America Association of State Transportation Officials urges the U.S. Congress to provide the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers the necessary and appropriate funding to construct a new large lock at Sault Ste. Marie.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the AASHTO Board of Directors and to the U.S. Congress.

Adopted by the MAASTO Board on: May 24, 2018

