

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7049

To provide for the issuance of a Great Lakes Restoration Semipostal Stamp.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 9, 2018

Mr. WALBERG (for himself and Mr. RYAN of Ohio) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide for the issuance of a Great Lakes Restoration Semipostal Stamp.

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; FINDINGS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Great Lakes Restoration Semipostal Stamp Act of
6 2018”.

7 (b) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The Great Lakes consist of Lake Michigan,
9 Lake Huron, Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, and Lake

1 Superior, and border the States of Michigan, Wis-
2 consin, Minnesota, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Pennsyl-
3 vania, and New York.

4 (2) The Great Lakes watershed provides habi-
5 tats for numerous fascinating species of wildlife.

6 (3) The Great Lakes have exceptional sur-
7 rounding parks, forests, shorelines, and islands,
8 which are a source of recreation through swimming,
9 hiking, picnics, boating, fishing, hunting, and wild-
10 life watching.

11 (4) The Great Lakes region is currently home
12 to 27 million people.

13 (5) The Great Lakes are the largest surface
14 freshwater system on Earth, with over 20 percent of
15 the world's fresh water supply.

16 (6) The Great Lakes are the source of drinking
17 water for over 40 million people and 56 billion gal-
18 lons of water a day for municipal, industrial, and ag-
19 ricultural use.

20 (7) The Great Lakes are vital for the region's
21 economy, attracting tourism and providing transpor-
22 tation for goods.

23 (8) The Great Lakes region's environment and
24 economy depend on the health and well-being of the
25 Great Lakes.

1 (9) The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has
2 played a critical role in restoring the Great Lakes.

3 (10) The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is
4 vital in combating the introduction of invasive spe-
5 cies into the Great Lakes.

6 (11) The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is
7 pivotal in mitigating harmful algal blooms.

8 (12) The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
9 has restored over 250,000 acres of habitat.

10 **SEC. 2. GREAT LAKES RESTORATION STAMP.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—In order to afford a convenient
12 way for members of the public to contribute to funding
13 for the operations supported by the Great Lakes Restora-
14 tion Initiative, as described under the fourth undesignated
15 paragraph under the heading “Administrative Provisions,
16 Environmental Protection Agency” in Public Law 111–88
17 (123 Stat. 2938; commonly known as the “Interior De-
18 partment and Further Continuing Appropriations Act for
19 Fiscal Year 2010”), the United States Postal Service shall
20 issue a semipostal stamp (referred to in this Act as the
21 “Great Lakes Restoration Semipostal Stamp”) in accord-
22 ance with the provisions of this section.

23 (b) COST.—The Great Lakes Restoration Semipostal
24 Stamp shall be offered at a cost equal to the cost of mail-
25 ing a letter weighing 1 ounce or less at the nonautomation

1 single-piece first-ounce letter rate, in effect at the time
2 of purchase, plus a differential of not less than 25 percent.

3 (c) OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The issuance
4 and sale of the Great Lakes Restoration Semipostal
5 Stamp shall be governed by the provisions of section 416
6 of title 39, United States Code, and regulations issued
7 under such section, subject to subsection (b) and the fol-
8 lowing:

9 (1) DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—All amounts becoming
11 available from the sale of the Great Lakes Res-
12 toration Semipostal Stamp shall be transferred
13 to the Environmental Protection Agency for the
14 purpose of funding the operations of the Initia-
15 tive described in subsection (a), through pay-
16 ments which shall be made at least twice a
17 year.

18 (B) PROCEEDS NOT TO BE OFFSET.—In
19 accordance with section 416(d)(4) of such title
20 39, amounts becoming available from the sale
21 of the Great Lakes Restoration Semipostal
22 Stamp (as so determined) shall not be taken
23 into account in any decision relating to the level
24 of appropriations or other Federal funding to

1 be furnished in any year to the Initiative identi-
2 fied in subsection (a).

3 (2) DURATION.—The Great Lakes Restoration
4 Semipostal Stamp shall be made available to the
5 public for a period of at least 5 years, beginning no
6 later than 12 months after the date of the enact-
7 ment of this Act.

8 (3) STAMP DEPICTIONS.—Stamps issued under
9 this Act shall depict images of each of the five Great
10 Lakes.

11 (4) LIMITATION.—The Great Lakes Restoration
12 Semipostal Stamp shall not be subject to, or taken
13 into account for purposes of applying, any limitation
14 under section 416(e)(1)(C) of such title 39.

15 (d) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this Act, the term
16 “semipostal stamp” refers to a stamp described in section
17 416(a)(1) of title 39, United States Code.

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