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DEPUTY WHIP

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2208**

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**Congressman Mike Rogers**  
***Protecting Michigan's Environmental Health***

Congressman Mike Rogers, R-MI, is pro-actively working to protect Michigan's environment. In the first year of the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress, he has introduced legislation, been a fierce advocate for keeping Great Lakes control and decisions in the hands of Great Lakes states and provinces, successfully lobbied for a \$500,000 federal brownfield redevelopment grant for the city of Lansing, and spent a day working with a county drain commissioner and Michigan DEQ lab staff to learn about water quality and how to protect the waters of the Great Lakes basin. Legislation introduced by the 8<sup>th</sup> District Congressman includes:

- **Canadian Trash Limitation/Prohibition, H.R. 1927.** Introduced 5/21/01  
The Solid Waste International Transportation Act was discussed at a hearing of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on the Environment and Hazardous Materials in August and a second hearing on the Rogers' bill is anticipated this spring. More than 4.2 million cubic yards of trash was imported into Michigan from Canada last year, and this year as many as 250 truckloads per day could cross the border into Michigan. State governments do not have the authority to regulate foreign waste without express authorization from Congress. This measure authorizes states to limit **or** prohibit foreign trash/waste importation.
- **Great Lakes Water Exportation, H. Con. Res. 148.** Introduced 5/26/01  
This measure affirms the authority of Great Lakes Basin states and premiers to develop a common standard for decisions relating to withdrawal of water from the Great Lakes. These lakes are the crown jewels of our region and should not be relinquished to the federal government. If Congress makes decisions about the Great Lakes, the choices will be made by the overwhelming number of members of Congress representing dry southwest and western states. This measure recognizes and affirms that management authority over the Great Lakes should remain vested with the states and provinces that share stewardship over this valuable natural resource.
- **Great Lakes Off-Shore Drilling Prohibition, H. Con. Res. 152.** Introduced 6/14/01  
Scientific evidence indicates that off-shore drilling poses hazards for the Lakes, and this measure makes it clear Great Lakes Basin states and provinces should ban, or continue existing bans, against off-shore drilling. There are three objectives: 1) Encourage Great Lakes States that, like Michigan, already have statutes prohibiting off-shore drilling to continue that prohibition; 2) Encourage states that do not currently have affirmative prohibitions to adopt a ban on off-shore drilling for oil and gas beneath the Great Lakes; and 3) Call on the Province of Ontario to cease and desist its current off-shore drilling for gas in Lake Erie and to adopt a ban on such drilling. **The language in this proposal was included as an amendment to the Energy bill passed by the House and sent to the Senate.**
- **Arsenic Removal from Drinking Water, H.R. 2112.** Introduced 6/18/01  
Scientists from EPA released a new standard for drinking water levels of arsenic this year, significantly reducing the allowable levels in drinking water. The legislation authorizes the Safe Drinking Water Act Revolving Fund to immediately give top funding priority to systems with unsafe levels of arsenic.

Updated 2/20/02