

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1073

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to provide technical and financial assistance to identify, conserve, restore, and interpret natural, recreational, historical, and cultural resources within the Great Lakes Watershed, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 6, 2025

Ms. KAPTUR (for herself and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to provide technical and financial assistance to identify, conserve, restore, and interpret natural, recreational, historical, and cultural resources within the Great Lakes Watershed, 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 “Great Lakes Gateways
5 Network Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. GREAT LAKES GATEWAYS.**

7 (a) GREAT LAKES GATEWAYS NETWORK.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Inte-
2 rior (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”),
3 in cooperation with the Administrator of the Envi-
4 ronmental Protection Agency (referred to in this sec-
5 tion as the “Administrator”), shall provide technical
6 and financial assistance, in cooperation with other
7 Federal agencies, State and local governments, non-
8 profit organizations, and the private sector to—

9 (A) identify, conserve, restore, and inter-
10 pret natural, recreational, historical, and cul-
11 tural resources within the Great Lakes Water-
12 shed;

13 (B) identify and use the collective re-
14 sources as Great Lakes Gateways sites for en-
15 hancing public education regarding and access
16 to the Great Lakes;

17 (C) link the Great Lakes Gateways sites
18 with trails, tour roads, scenic byways, and other
19 connections as determined by the Secretary;

20 (D) develop and establish Great Lakes
21 Watertrails comprising water routes and con-
22 nections to Great Lakes Gateways sites and
23 other land resources within the Great Lakes
24 Watershed; and

1 (E) create a Great Lakes Gateways Net-
2 work comprised of Great Lakes Gateways sites
3 and Great Lakes Watertrails.

4 (2) COMPONENTS.—Components of the Great
5 Lakes Gateways Network may include—

6 (A) State or Federal parks or refuges;

7 (B) historic seaports;

8 (C) archaeological, cultural, historical, or
9 recreational sites; or

10 (D) other public access and interpretive
11 sites as selected by the Secretary.

12 (b) GREAT LAKES GATEWAYS GRANTS ASSISTANCE
13 PROGRAM.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coopera-
15 tion with the Administrator, shall establish a Great
16 Lakes Gateways Grants Assistance Program to aid
17 State and local governments, local communities,
18 nonprofit organizations, and the private sector in
19 conserving, restoring, and interpreting important
20 historic, cultural, recreational, and natural resources
21 within the Great Lakes Watershed.

22 (2) CRITERIA.—The Secretary, in cooperation
23 with the Administrator, shall develop appropriate eli-
24 gibility, prioritization, and review criteria for grants
25 under this section.

1 (3) MATCHING FUNDS AND ADMINISTRATIVE
2 EXPENSES.—A grant under this section—

3 (A) shall not exceed 50 percent of eligible
4 project costs;

5 (B) shall be made on the condition that
6 non-Federal sources, including in-kind contribu-
7 tions of services or materials, provide the re-
8 mainder of eligible project costs; and

9 (C) shall be made on the condition that ad-
10 ministrative expenses are not more than 10 per-
11 cent of all eligible project costs.

12 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
13 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
14 \$6,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2031.

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