Resolution Urging the Federal Government to Fund Research on Microplastics in the Environment

WHEREAS, microplastics are pieces of plastic that are less than five millimeters in size which can result from the disposal and breakdown of products and industrial waste containing plastics; and

WHEREAS, the majority of plastics in the United States are not recycled; and

WHEREAS, recent studies have shown that microplastics are pervasive in the environment; and

WHEREAS, microplastics are easily ingested by plankton and filter feeding animals and are found in many species of wildlife including fish and shellfish; and

WHEREAS, microplastics have been found in bottled water and other consumer products intended for human consumption; and

WHEREAS, microplastics have been found in human stools; and

WHEREAS, scientists still know little about the effects of microplastics on the human body or on wildlife; and

WHEREAS, water resources, including drinking water, and soils and sediments are rarely tested or monitored for microplastics; and

WHEREAS, questions still remain as to the sources of microplastics in the environment, including the contributions from wastewater treatment facilities; and
WHEREAS, research is needed to understand the impacts of microplastics on the environment and human health and to develop testing and monitoring protocols; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus urges the United States Environmental Protection Agency to increase research efforts on microplastics; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to President Donald Trump, Attorney General William Barr, and all members of Congress.

*Adopted on September 14, 2019.*