

Resolution of the Legislature of Michigan relative to the construction of a Ship Canal around the Falls of Niagara.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Relative to the construction of a Ship Canal around the Falls of Niagara.

Whereas, The Congress of the United States has, by numerous grants of land, aided the construction of various works of internal improvements, and thus assisted in the development of the varied resources of our common country: *And Whereas*, The appropriation wisely granted to this State for the construction of a canal around the Falls of St. Mary, and within the territory of Michigan, is of that munificent character which will open to the commercial world a trade far exceeding, in mineral wealth, that of any other nation, besides forming a link in the frontier defences of our country, which, in a true military point of view, and in the event of hostilities between the United States and Great Britain, would allow the concentration of lake armaments, and give celerity to the movements of forces and munitions of war from lake to lake: *And Whereas*, The Falls of Niagara now form the only remaining barrier to the uninterrupted navigation of the great chain of our inland seas and rivers, upon which borders nearly one-fourth of the States of our confederacy, and in which the trade and commerce of nearly one-half of the United States are directly or indirectly interested, and none more so than the State of Michigan, which has fifteen hundred miles of lake coast, and whose varied products now employ more vessel tonnage through the Welland Canal than any other State, thus paying tribute to a foreign power, besides subjecting our marine craft, by the want of capacity of that work, to ruinous detentions and delays already experienced, and which are increasing from year to year: *And Whereas*, We conceive the immediate construction of a Ship Canal around the Falls of Niagara, in the State of New York, second to none in importance yet secured, and completing the only link wanting in connecting the navigation of our lakes with the ports of the eastern world, as well as perfecting a naval defence on the northern boundary of the nation; therefore be it

Resolved, by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Representatives be requested, to vote for the passage of a law granting lands to the State of New York, or assigns, for the construction of a Ship Canal around the Falls of Niagara, in said State of New York, and to use all honorable means to secure the passage of the same.