

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1308

To increase authorized funding for the Soo Locks.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 7, 2017

Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. PETERS) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and
Public Works

A BILL

To increase authorized funding for the Soo Locks.

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 “Soo Locks Moderniza-
5 tion Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SAULTE SAINTE MARIE, MICHIGAN.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8 (1) the Soo Locks are a critical link in the
9 Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway system;

1 (2) each year, an average of 7,900 vessels carry
2 80,000,000 tons of iron ore, coal, stone, grain, and
3 other materials through the Soo Locks;

4 (3) the Corps of Engineers reports that an un-
5 scheduled outage at the Soo Locks would cripple
6 both navigational and industrial production in the
7 Great Lakes region;

8 (4) a report by the Department of Homeland
9 Security concluded that a 6-month shutdown of the
10 Soo Locks would result in—

11 (A) 75 percent of all integrated steel pro-
12 duction in the United States ceasing within 2 to
13 6 weeks;

14 (B) in North America, the shutdown of
15 100 percent of production of appliances, auto-
16 mobiles, construction equipment, farm equip-
17 ment, mining equipment, and railcars; and

18 (C) the unemployment of almost
19 11,000,000 people;

20 (5) there have been no comprehensive improve-
21 ments to the Soo Locks facility in nearly 50 years;

22 (6) modernizing the Soo Locks is of critical im-
23 portance to the economy and security of the Great
24 Lakes region and the United States; and

1 (7) the Corps of Engineers believes the plan-
2 ning guidance required under the document of the
3 Water Resources Council entitled “Economic and
4 Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water
5 and Related Land Resources Implementation Stud-
6 ies” and dated March 10, 1983, and updated by the
7 Principles, Requirements, and Guidelines for Federal
8 Investments in Water Resources (78 Fed. Reg.
9 18562 (March 27, 2013); 79 Fed. Reg. 77460 (De-
10 cember 24, 2014)), inhibits the Corps of Engineers
11 from considering in the economic evaluation of the
12 Soo Locks projects the severe regional economic con-
13 sequences from an unplanned outage at the Soo
14 Locks.

15 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF PROJECT.—Notwithstanding
16 any other provision of law (including regulations), and
17 based on the risks and severe consequences of service
18 interruption at the project, the Secretary of the Army
19 shall carry out the project authorized by section 1149 of
20 the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (100 Stat.
21 4254; 121 Stat. 1131), at a total project cost that is equal
22 to the 2017 certified cost estimate, plus or minus such
23 amounts, if any, as may be required by ordinary fluctua-
24 tions in construction costs as indicated by engineering cost

- 1 indices applicable to the type of construction described in
- 2 that section.

