



Great Lakes-St. Lawrence  
Legislative Caucus

## 2019 Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus

*Wyndham Grand Chicago Riverfront Hotel  
Chicago, Illinois  
September 13-14, 2019*

**Resolution #: 19-1**

**Proposed by: Representative Jennifer Schultz, Minnesota**

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

- 1   **WHEREAS,**           microplastics are pieces of plastic that are less than five millimeters in size  
2                            which can result from the disposal and breakdown of products and  
3                            industrial waste containing plastics; and  
4
- 5   **WHEREAS,**           the majority of plastics in the United States are not recycled; and  
6
- 7   **WHEREAS,**           recent studies have shown that microplastics are pervasive in the  
8                            environment; and  
9
- 10 **WHEREAS,**           microplastics are easily ingested by plankton and filter feeding animals  
11                            and are found in many species of wildlife including fish and shellfish;  
12                            and  
13
- 14 **WHEREAS,**           microplastics have been found in bottled water and other consumer  
15                            products intended for human consumption; and  
16
- 17 **WHEREAS,**           microplastics have been found in human stools; and  
18
- 19 **WHEREAS,**           scientists still know little about the effects of microplastics on the human  
20                            body or on wildlife; and  
21
- 22 **WHEREAS,**           water resources, including drinking water, and soils and sediments are  
23                            rarely tested or monitored for microplastics; and



**MIDWEST**

24 **WHEREAS,** questions still remain as to the sources of microplastics in the  
25 environment, including the contributions from wastewater treatment  
26 facilities; and

27  
28 **WHEREAS,** research is needed to understand the impacts of microplastics on the  
29 environment and human health and to develop testing and monitoring  
30 protocols; now therefore be it

31  
32 **RESOLVED,** that the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus urges the United  
33 States Environmental Protection Agency to increase research efforts on  
34 microplastics; and be it further

35  
36 **RESOLVED,** that a copy of this resolution be sent to President Donald Trump,  
37 Attorney General William Barr, and all members of Congress.