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SCHAKOWSKY INTRODUCES BILL TO STOP COMPANIES FROM POLLUTING THE GREAT LAKES

Washington, D.C.—U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) introduced the Great Lakes Pollution Prevention Act today.

“The decision by BP, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (DEM), and the U.S. EPA to allow British Petroleum (BP) to dump 100,000 gallons of oil into the Great Lakes is a disaster waiting to happen,” Schakowsky said.

The Great Lakes Pollution Prevention Act would require that before a state government grants a permit for a company to dump oil into the Great Lakes, the company must first prove that it can prevent an oil spill.

“The Great Lakes, including Lake Michigan, provide 20 percent of all the surface water in the United States. An oil spill in the Great Lakes would be a national disaster,” Schakowsky said.

On July 25, 2007, Congress passed H. Con. Res. 187, which expressed its disapproval of the U.S. EPA’s decision to allow BP to dump oil into the Great Lakes.

Last month, the U.S. EPA granted a waiver to British Petroleum (BP) to allow it dump 100,000 gallons of oil into the Great Lakes.