

*Monroe County
Clerk of the Legislature*

Nayeliz Santiago
Clerk



Isabela Mulcahy
Deputy Clerk

Hugh Smyth
1st Asst. Deputy Clerk

MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislators, Directors, Staff and Media

FROM: Nayeliz Santiago, Clerk of the Legislature

DATE: September 4, 2026

RE: Matter of Urgency – File No. 26-0269

Matter of Urgency:

26-0269 **Memorializing the United State Congress to Pass and President Trump to Sign H.R. 10186, Hands Off Our Great Lakes Act** – As a Matter of Urgency – President Yversha Román and Legislators Michael Yudelson, Marvin Stepherson, Howard Maffucci, Nazish Jeffery, John B. Baynes, Susan Hughes-Smith, Dave Long, Rachel Barnhart, Lystra Bartholomew McCoy, Santos Cruz, Linda Hasman, Rose Bonnick and William Burgess

Per President Yversha Román, the attached Memorializing Referral has been declared to be a Matter of Urgency pursuant to Section 545-24(A)(3) of the Rules of the Monroe County Legislature and will be included in the Memorializing Resolution packets delivered to the Legislators.

Attachments.



Monroe County Legislature

OFFICE OF THE MAJORITY CAUCUS

September 4, 2026

To The Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
39 West Main Street
Rochester, NY 14614

OFFICIAL FILE COPY	
No.	<u>260269</u>
Not to be removed from the Office of the Legislature Of Monroe County	
Committee Assignment	
Memorandum Referred	-L
URGENT	

RE: Memorializing the United States Congress to Pass and President Trump to Sign H.R. 10186, Hands Off Our Great Lakes Act

Lake Ontario is an essential part of Monroe County's identity, history, economy, and quality of life. It is a source of drinking water, recreation, tourism, environmental stewardship, economic opportunity, and community pride. For generations, residents of Monroe County and communities throughout the Great Lakes region have understood Lake Ontario not simply as a geographic feature, but as a shared resource connecting people, communities, and nations.

The history of the name Lake Ontario itself makes preserving it particularly important. Long before the United States or Canada existed as nations, Indigenous peoples lived along, traveled across, and cared for these waters. The name "Ontario" has Indigenous roots in the languages of the Great Lakes region, with historical sources connecting it to Iroquoian words and providing translations including "sparkling water," "great lake," and "beautiful lake." European records documenting the name date back more than 400 years, long before the establishment of either modern nation.

H.R. 10186, Hands Off Our Great Lakes Act, appropriately recognizes the names of the Great Lakes should not be subject to unilateral political action. The legislation would prohibit the federal government from renaming any of the five Great Lakes, nullify the executive order attempting to rename Lake Ontario, and prevent federal funds from being used to implement such an action.

There is also a more fundamental question of priorities. Families across Monroe County are working to afford groceries, housing, energy, health care, and other necessities. Businesses are seeking stability and certainty so they can invest, grow, and create jobs. Communities are asking their government to address the issues that have a direct and meaningful impact on people's lives, not for some publicity stunt led to distract from failed trade negotiations.

Further, let it be known, Monroe County will continue to recognize and refer to this body of water as Lake Ontario in all official County correspondence, documents, communications, and materials.

Lake Ontario was here before our borders, before our governments, and before our nations. Its history cannot be rewritten by executive order.

Therefore, we urge Congress to focus on issues that matter to the American people by passing H.R. 10186, the Hands Off Our Great Lakes Act.

Respectfully submitted,



Yversha Román
President



Michael Yudelson
Majority Leader



Marvin Stepherson
Legislator - District 3



Howard Maffucci
Legislator - District 10



Dr. Nazish Jeffery
Legislator - District 12



John B. Baynes
Legislator - District 11



Susan Hughes-Smith
Legislator - District 14



Dave Long
Legislator - District 16



Rachel Barnhart
Legislator - District 17



Lystra Bartholomew McCoy
Legislator - District 18



Santos Cruz
Legislator - District 21



Linda Hasman
Legislator - District 23



Rose Bonnick
Legislator - District 27



William Burgess
Legislator - District 29