

As Reported by the House Local Government Committee

129th General Assembly

Regular Session

2011-2012

H. C. R. No. 31

Representatives Landis, Okey

**Cosponsors: Representatives Thompson, Ruhl, Blair, Combs, Lundy,
Murray, Foley, Garland, Gentile, Slesnick, Stebelton, Antonio, Yuko, Letson,
Schuring**

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge the United States Army Corps of Engineers to 1
take all actions necessary to preserve the Village 2
of Zoar in its present location in Tuscarawas 3
County by repairing a levee that is protecting the 4
Village. 5

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE
OF OHIO (THE SENATE CONCURRING):**

WHEREAS, The Village of Zoar in Tuscarawas County was founded 6
in 1817 by Christian immigrants from the Kingdom of Wurttemberg 7
(Germany). The Zoarists were known as the Society of Separatists 8
of Zoar. The Village functioned as a religious commune until 1898 9
and was one of many religious communes established throughout the 10
United States in the nineteenth century; and 11

WHEREAS, The Zoarists were deeply religious and egalitarian 12
and valued hard work. They were farmers, craftspeople, and 13
manufacturers whose wares were exported throughout the United 14
States. The Zoarists also assisted in the construction of the Erie 15
Canal. All that was earned by the Village community was shared 16
among the Village's residents; and 17

WHEREAS, After 1898 the Village of Zoar ceased to function as 18
a religious commune, but it has retained its nineteenth century 19
charm. The Village of Zoar is a significant tourist attraction in 20
northeast Ohio and is a living and functioning monument to life in 21
Ohio in the nineteenth century; and 22

WHEREAS, Zoar abuts the Tuscarawas River and is protected 23
from flooding by a levee. Though the levee is still functioning, 24
water is seeping through the ground under the levee which may 25
result in the undermining of the levee; and 26

WHEREAS, The United States Army Corps of Engineers, which has 27
jurisdiction over the levee, has proposed the following three 28
solutions: repairing the levee; relocating all of the buildings in 29
the flood area to higher ground; or breaching the levee and 30
flooding the Village of Zoar; now therefore be it 31

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 129th General Assembly 32
of the State of Ohio, in adopting this resolution, strongly urge 33
the United States Army Corps of Engineers to take all actions 34
necessary to repair the levee and to preserve the Village of Zoar 35
in its present location; and be it further 36

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 37
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the 38
Commanding General of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, 39
other appropriate officials in the Corps, and the news media of 40
Ohio. 41