



HR0221

LRB101 11698 MST 58174 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Great Lakes system, which includes Lake Erie,  
3 Lake Huron, Lake Ontario, Lake Michigan, Lake Superior, and the  
4 St. Lawrence River, is a globally significant resource and  
5 ecosystem, holding 21 percent of the world's surface  
6 freshwater; and

7 WHEREAS, The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River provide  
8 drinking water to more than 48 million Americans and Canadians  
9 and supply 56 billion gallons of water per day for municipal,  
10 agricultural, and industrial use; and

11 WHEREAS, On September 7, 2012, by signing a revised Great  
12 Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the United States and Canada  
13 reaffirmed their commitment to binational cooperation "to  
14 restore, protect, and enhance the water quality of the Great  
15 Lakes to promote the ecological health of the Great Lakes  
16 basin"; and

17 WHEREAS, An abundant supply of clean, affordable water is  
18 essential to support a healthy population, a thriving economy,  
19 and a well-functioning ecosystem; and

20 WHEREAS, As the major source of water for communities  
21 located within the Great Lakes basin, the Great Lakes system is

1 a vital resource in which all the region's residents share a  
2 common interest; and

3 WHEREAS, The Great Lakes system is an economic powerhouse  
4 for the region, supporting industries such as shipping,  
5 agriculture, technology, manufacturing, recreation, and  
6 tourism; and

7 WHEREAS, The waters and shoreline of the Great Lakes system  
8 provide exceptional habitat for thousands of species of native  
9 mammals, birds, amphibians, fish, and plants; and

10 WHEREAS, The Great Lakes basin is home to numerous beaches,  
11 parks, forests, harbors, marinas, piers, lighthouses,  
12 boardwalks, and islands that provide recreational  
13 opportunities for swimming, hiking, surfing, boating,  
14 kayaking, canoeing, fishing, hunting, photography, wildlife  
15 watching, and more; and

16 WHEREAS, Illinois' 63-mile stretch of Lake Michigan  
17 shoreline is among the State's most valuable natural and  
18 cultural resources and has extraordinary economic value; Lake  
19 Michigan provides a coastal home to six million residents in  
20 Lake and Cook counties, drinking water for seven million  
21 Illinois residents, a tourism industry that brings 20 million  
22 people to the Lake Michigan shoreline each year, recreational

1 opportunities, such as boating, fishing, and swimming that  
2 generate \$3.2 billion annually and support 33,000 jobs, and a  
3 maritime transportation network linking the nation's heartland  
4 to world markets; and

5 WHEREAS, People greatly value the opportunity to live,  
6 work, and play in areas near waters that are vibrant,  
7 beautiful, and life-sustaining; and

8 WHEREAS, The region's environment, economy, and people  
9 rely on the clean, healthy waters of the Great Lakes and St.  
10 Lawrence River; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
12 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
13 we declare September 7, 2019 as Great Lakes-St. Lawrence  
14 Appreciation Day in Illinois and urge appropriate observance of  
15 this occasion.