A RESOLUTION

1 Designating September 7, 2020, as "Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Appreciation Day" in Pennsylvania.
2 WHEREAS, The Great Lakes system, including Lake Erie, Lake Huron, Lake Ontario, Lake Michigan, Lake Superior and the St. Lawrence River, is a globally significant resource and ecosystem, holding 21% of the world's surface fresh water; and
3 WHEREAS, The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River provide drinking water to more than 48 million Americans and Canadians and supply 56 billion gallons of water per day for municipal, agricultural and industrial use; and
4 WHEREAS, On September 7, 2012, by signing a revised Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the United States and Canada reaffirmed their commitment to binational cooperation "to restore, protect, and enhance the water quality of the Great Lakes to promote the ecological health of the Great Lakes basin"; and
WHEREAS, An abundant supply of clean, affordable water is essential to support a healthy population, a thriving economy and a well-functioning ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, As the major source of water for communities located within the Great Lakes basin, the Great Lakes system is a vital resource in which all the region's residents share a common interest; and

WHEREAS, The Great Lakes system is an economic powerhouse for the region, supporting industries including shipping, agriculture, technology, manufacturing, recreation and tourism; and

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

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

WHEREAS, Lake Erie is among Pennsylvania's most valuable natural resources and has extraordinary economic value for this Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's Lake Erie coastal region provides a home for an estimated 250,000 Pennsylvania residents and more than 3,000 jobs, Presque Isle State Park, which attracts 4 million visitors who spend an estimated $76.9 million annually, a tourism and recreation industry that contributes more than $65 million to Pennsylvania's economy, harbors and marinas that support a $71 million annual recreational boating industry and a growing steelhead fishery that generates nearly $10 million in
expenditures and $6 million in value-added activity in Erie County; and

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

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

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate September 7, 2020, as "Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Appreciation Day" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives encourage all residents to learn about the importance of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River to the economy and the environment of this Commonwealth.