

## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating September 7, 2020, as "Great Lakes-St. Lawrence  
2 River Appreciation Day" in Pennsylvania.

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

1 essential to support a healthy population, a thriving economy  
2 and a well-functioning ecosystem; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 County; and

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

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

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

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