

**SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 149**

1 A resolution to declare September 7, 2019, as Great Lakes-St.
2 Lawrence Appreciation Day in the state of Michigan.

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 ecosystem,
6 holding 21 percent of the world's surface freshwater; and

7 Whereas, The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River provide
8 drinking water to more than 48 million Americans and Canadians and
9 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



1 reaffirmed their commitment to binational cooperation "to restore,
2 protect, and enhance the water quality of the Great Lakes to
3 promote the ecological health of the Great Lakes basin"; and

4 Whereas, According to the Environmental Protection Agency,
5 more than 30 million people live in the Great Lakes basin, equating
6 to 10 percent of U.S. residents and 30 percent of Canadian
7 residents. More than 3,500 species of plants and animals inhabit
8 the Great Lakes basin, including 170-plus species of fish; and

9 Whereas, An abundant supply of clean, affordable water is
10 essential to support a healthy population, a thriving economy, and
11 a well-functioning ecosystem; and

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

16 Whereas, The Great Lakes system is an economic powerhouse for
17 the region, supporting industries such as shipping, agriculture,
18 technology, manufacturing, recreation, and tourism; and

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

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

27 Whereas, Michigan borders four of the five Great Lakes and is
28 home to the world's longest freshwater coastline and the world's
29 largest freshwater dune system making the Great Lakes one of our

1 most valuable natural resources, providing water for drinking and
2 industry, shipping of commodities, fishing, and waterborne
3 transportation. Michigan's beaches helped attract 122.4 million
4 visitors in 2017 who spent \$24.7 billion. This generated \$2.7
5 billion in state and local taxes; and

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

9 Whereas, The region's environment, economy, and residents rely
10 on the clean, healthy waters of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence
11 River; now, therefore, be it

12 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
13 this legislative body declare September 7, 2019, as Great Lakes-St.
14 Lawrence Appreciation Day in Michigan. We urge appropriate
15 observance of this occasion throughout Michigan and the states that
16 share the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River and encourage all
17 Michiganders to learn about the importance of the Great Lakes and
18 St. Lawrence River to the economy and the environment of Michigan;
19 and be it further

20 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
21 governors of Michigan and the states that share the Great Lakes and
22 St. Lawrence River.