

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 57

Reps. Kuppa, Cavanagh, Aiyash, Puri, Morse, Brixie, Hertel, Sabo, Thanedar, O'Neal, Anthony, Rogers, Cambensy, Steenland, Sowerby, Stone, Peterson, Garza, Shannon, Steckloff, Scott, Whitsett, Haadsma, Breen, Hope, Witwer, Neeley, Ellison, Clemente, Brabec, Tyrone Carter, Manoogian, Rabhi, Jones, LaGrand, Camilleri, Pohutsky, Young, Bolden, Hood and Yancey offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare March 22, 2021, as Michigan Water Day
2 and World Water Day in the state of Michigan.

3 Whereas, Since 1993, the United Nations has designated March
4 22nd as World Water Day. In 2010, the United Nations acknowledged
5 "the importance of equitable access to safe and clean drinking
6 water and sanitation as an integral component of the realization of
7 all human rights"; and

1 Whereas, The theme of World Water Day 2021 is 'Valuing Water'
2 and we recognize water-related issues beyond those of pricing to
3 include the environmental, social, and cultural value people place
4 on water; and

5 Whereas, Clean water is integral to the global economy and
6 international security and nearly 1.5 billion laborers around the
7 world work in water-related sectors. Reliable water infrastructure
8 is integral to the health, safety, and well-being of people; and

9 Whereas, Water services should meet the needs of all
10 Michiganders, including those who are the most vulnerable, so that
11 their voices are heard in the decision-making process; and

12 Whereas, The Anishinaabek, the original people of the Great
13 Lakes region, have a special relationship with the water and
14 believe and teach that water is life necessary to sustain them both
15 spiritually and physically. Based on these fundamental values,
16 Anishinaabek people prioritize ensuring the waters of the Great
17 Lakes are healthy and clean for future generations; and

18 Whereas, On admission to statehood, Michigan became the owner
19 as sovereign to the waters of the Great Lakes and holds them under
20 the public trust doctrine for the benefit of the people of the
21 state of Michigan and constitute a public trust to protect the
22 public's right to use the waters of the Great Lakes for purposes
23 such as navigation, hunting, and fishing; and

24 Whereas, Michigan has the largest freshwater coastline in the
25 United States and has more than 11,000 inland lakes. A Michigander
26 is never more than six miles away from a fresh body of water; and

27 Whereas, The Great Lakes make up more than 20 percent of the
28 world's fresh surface water supply and are a source of drinking
29 water, sanitation, health, livelihood, and recreation for about 40

1 million people - in addition to supporting more than 1.3 million
2 jobs that generate \$82 billion in wages annually; and

3 Whereas, Article IV, Section 52 of the Michigan Constitution
4 holds that it is a "paramount public concern" of government to
5 conserve and develop natural resources while protecting water and
6 other natural resources from pollution, impairment and destruction;
7 and

8 Whereas, The Michigan Environmental Protection Act calls for
9 "protection of the air, water, and other natural resources and the
10 public trust in these resources from pollution, impairment, or
11 destruction" by government; and

12 Whereas, Michigan's jurisprudence and laws have long
13 recognized and upheld the Public Trust Doctrine as a fundamental
14 legal principle, according to which the duty of government as
15 Trustee of the Public Trust is to maintain public ownership and
16 control of surface water for the common good unimpaired from one
17 generation to the next; and

18 Whereas, The International Joint Commission has recommended
19 that the states and communities implement the public trust in water
20 as an overarching, backstop framework and set of principles to
21 protect the waters, natural resources, and integrity of watersheds
22 and ecosystems within the Great Lakes Basin; and

23 Whereas, Michigan's waters and the Great Lakes are important
24 to tourism and other industries, for travelers come from all over
25 the world to swim, boat, and enjoy the grandeur of Michigan's
26 coastline; and

27 Whereas, The waters of the Great Lakes and Michigan's
28 tributary rivers, streams, and groundwater are a globally unique
29 fresh water system and a magnificent and unparalleled natural

1 resource endowment; now, therefore, be it

2 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
3 this legislative body declare March 22, 2021, as Michigan Water Day
4 and World Water Day in the state of Michigan. It is with great
5 honor and appreciation that we take this time to join other states
6 and nations in expressing our commitment to ensuring that clean
7 affordable drinking water is available to all Michiganders and
8 commit ourselves to promotion of public awareness to prevent our
9 precious water from pollution and depletion. On this day, we will
10 celebrate and honor the pure water in our state, our country, and
11 our world; and be it further

12 Resolved, That while we recognize the interconnectedness of
13 humanity and appreciate global challenges, we also recognize our
14 duty as Michiganders in protecting our natural resources and
15 instilling a sense of pride in ourselves and our children for our
16 Great Lakes; and be it further

17 Resolved, We cherish and acknowledge the special
18 responsibility of protecting Michigan's waters for current and
19 future generations.