

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 70

Senator VanderWall, Ananich, Barrett, Bizon, Bullock, Chang, Hertel, Hollier, Johnson, Lauwers, Lucido, Runestad, Santana, Wojno and Zorn offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to recognize September 7, 2019, as Great Lakes-
2 St. Lawrence Appreciation Day.

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 provides
8 drinking water to more than 48 million Americans and Canadians and
9 supplies 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

1 Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the United States and Canada
2 reaffirmed their commitment to binational cooperation "to restore,
3 protect, and enhance the water quality of the Great Lakes to
4 promote the ecological health of the Great Lakes basin."; and

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

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

12 Whereas, The Great Lakes are an economic powerhouse for the
13 region, supporting industries such as shipping, agriculture,
14 technology, manufacturing, recreation, and tourism; and

15 Whereas, The waters and shoreline of the Great Lakes provide
16 exceptional habitat for thousands of species of native mammals,
17 birds, amphibians, fish, and plants; and

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

23 Whereas, The Great Lakes are Michigan's most valuable natural
24 resource and are fundamental to the state's identity and quality of
25 life. The Great Lakes also have extraordinary economic value for
26 Michigan, providing jobs for more than 800,000 Michigan residents;
27 a world-renown commercial and sport fishery with an annual value of
28 more than \$4 billion; the foundation for a \$12.8 billion travel
29 industry; water resources for manufacturing industries, which

1 produce 60 percent of our nation's steel and 60 percent of our
2 automobiles; a maritime transportation network; and harbors and
3 marinas that support a \$2 billion annual recreational boating
4 industry; 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; now, therefore, be it

8 Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative
9 body recognize September 7, 2019, as Great Lakes-St. Lawrence
10 Appreciation Day; and be it further

11 Resolved, That we encourage all citizens to learn about the
12 importance of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River to the economy
13 and the environment of Michigan.