

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 70

Senator VanderWall 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  
12 Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the United States and Canada  
13 reaffirmed their commitment to binational cooperation "to restore,

1 protect, and enhance the water quality of the Great Lakes to  
2 promote the ecological health of the Great Lakes basin.”; and

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

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

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

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

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

21       Whereas, The Great Lakes are Michigan’s most valuable natural  
22 resource and are fundamental to the state’s identity and quality of  
23 life. The Great Lakes also have extraordinary economic value for  
24 Michigan, providing jobs for more than 800,000 Michigan residents;  
25 a world-renown commercial and sport fishery with an annual value of  
26 more than \$4 billion; the foundation for a \$12.8 billion travel  
27 industry; water resources for manufacturing industries, which  
28 produce 60 percent of our nation’s steel and 60 percent of our  
29 automobiles; a maritime transportation network; and harbors and

1 marinas that support a \$2 billion annual recreational boating  
2 industry; and

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

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

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