

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 256

Reps. Kuppa, Stone, Brenda Carter, Cynthia Johnson, Pohutsky, Anthony, Hood, Ellison, Neeley, Scott, LaGrand, Coleman, Liberati, Sowerby, Rogers, Hertel, Hope, Aiyash, Bezotte, Breen, Haadsma, Koleszar, Rabhi, Sabo, Sneller, Thanedar, Weiss and Young offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to declare March 22, 2022, 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

8 Whereas, The theme of World Water Day 2022 is 'Groundwater:
9 Making the Invisible Visible;' and

1 Whereas, Michigan's groundwater and surface water are
2 connected as part of the water cycle and need to be protected
3 holistically; and

4 Whereas, Groundwater flow that discharges to lakes and streams
5 sustains cold water fisheries, stream ecology, and wetlands, and
6 also accounts for approximately 25% of the volume of the Great
7 Lakes, the world's largest and most magnificent freshwater system;
8 and

9 Whereas, Michigan's groundwater provides drinking water to 45%
10 of Michigan's population from private wells and municipal supplies,
11 while surface water is the source of drinking water for the
12 remainder of the population, primarily through municipal supplies;
13 and

14 Whereas, Regardless of whether they use groundwater or surface
15 water, all Michiganders have a human right to clean, safe, and
16 affordable drinking water; and

17 Whereas, Contamination of groundwater has occurred in over
18 10,000 locations in Michigan. In some of these locations,
19 Michiganders are barred from using groundwater as drinking water;
20 and

21 Whereas, Michigan's water infrastructure financing must
22 include multi-billion-dollar investments in protecting drinking
23 water sources and supply systems associated with both groundwater
24 and surface water, and

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

28 Whereas, The Anishinaabek, the original people of the Great
29 Lakes region, have a special relationship with the water and

1 believe and teach that water is necessary to sustain them both
2 spiritually and physically. Based on these fundamental values,
3 Anishinaabek people prioritize ensuring that the waters of the
4 Great Lakes are healthy and clean for future generations; and

5 Whereas, On admission to statehood, Michigan became the owner
6 as sovereign to the waters of the Great Lakes and groundwater and
7 holds them under the public trust doctrine for the benefit of the
8 people of the state of Michigan, and

9 Whereas, Article IV, Section 52 of the Michigan Constitution
10 holds that it is a "paramount public concern" of government to
11 conserve and develop natural resources while protecting water and
12 other natural resources from pollution, impairment, and
13 destruction; and

14 Whereas, The Michigan Environmental Protection Act calls for
15 "protection of the air, water, and other natural resources and the
16 public trust in these resources from pollution, impairment, or
17 destruction" by government; and

18 Whereas, The waters of the Great Lakes and Michigan's
19 tributary rivers, streams, and groundwater are a globally unique
20 freshwater system and a magnificent and unparalleled natural
21 resource endowment; now, therefore, be it

22 Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of
23 this legislative body declare March 22, 2022, as Michigan Water Day
24 and World Water Day in the state of Michigan. It is with great
25 honor and appreciation that we take this time to join other states
26 and nations in expressing our commitment to ensuring that
27 groundwater is fully protected; that safe, clean, and affordable
28 drinking water is available to all Michiganders from both surface
29 water and groundwater; and commit ourselves to promoting public

1 awareness to prevent our precious water from pollution and
2 depletion. On this day, we will celebrate and honor the pure water
3 in our state, our country, and our world; and be it further

4 Resolved, While we recognize the interconnectedness of
5 humanity and appreciate global challenges, we also recognize our
6 duty as Michiganders in protecting our natural resources and
7 instilling a sense of pride in ourselves and our children for our
8 Great Lakes; and be it further

9 Resolved, That we cherish and acknowledge the special
10 responsibility of protecting Michigan's waters for current and
11 future generations.