



2019 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 45

May 16, 2019 - Introduced by Representatives B. MEYERS, KITCHENS, STUCK, MILROY, KULP, HEBL, ZAMARRIPA, SINICKI, SARGENT, MURSAU, ANDERSON, BALLWEG, KOLSTE, CONSIDINE, SHANKLAND, SPIROS, EMERSON, VRUWINK, OHNSTAD, GRUSZYNSKI, THIESFELDT, TUSLER and SKOWRONSKI, cosponsored by Senators COWLES, BEWLEY, MILLER, RINGHAND and JACQUE. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** proclaiming September 7, 2019, as Great Lakes–St. Lawrence
2 Appreciation Day.

3 Whereas, the Great Lakes system, including Lake Erie, Lake Huron, Lake
4 Ontario, Lake Michigan, Lake Superior, and the St. Lawrence River, is a globally
5 significant resource and ecosystem, holding 21 percent of the world’s surface
6 freshwater; and

7 Whereas, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River provide drinking water to
8 more than 48 million Americans and Canadians and supply 56 billion gallons of
9 water per day for municipal, agricultural, and industrial use; and

10 Whereas, on September 7, 2012, by signing a revised Great Lakes Water
11 Quality Agreement, the United States and Canada reaffirmed their commitment to
12 binational cooperation “to restore, protect, and enhance the water quality of the
13 Great Lakes to promote the ecological health of the Great Lakes basin”; and

14 Whereas, an abundant supply of clean, affordable water is essential to support
15 a healthy population, a thriving economy, and a well-functioning ecosystem; and

1 Whereas, as the major source of water for communities located within the Great
2 Lakes basin, the Great Lakes system is a vital resource in which all the region's
3 residents share a common interest; and

4 Whereas, the Great Lakes system is an economic powerhouse for the region,
5 supporting industries such as shipping, agriculture, technology, manufacturing,
6 recreation, and tourism; and

7 Whereas, the waters and shoreline of the Great Lakes system provide
8 exceptional habitat for thousands of species of native mammals, birds, amphibians,
9 fish, and plants; and

10 Whereas, the Great Lakes basin is home to numerous beaches, parks, forests,
11 harbors, marinas, piers, lighthouses, boardwalks, and islands that provide
12 recreational opportunities for swimming, hiking, surfing, boating, kayaking,
13 canoeing, fishing, hunting, photography, wildlife watching, and more; and

14 Whereas, the Great Lakes have profound effects on Wisconsin's environment,
15 culture, and quality of life; and

16 Whereas, Lakes Michigan and Superior provide sport fishing opportunities for
17 more than 250,000 anglers, bringing \$252 million to lakeshore communities
18 annually; the foundation for a \$3 billion tourism industry in lakeshore counties;
19 water vital for manufacturing; harbors and marinas that annually support a \$9.4
20 billion recreational boating industry; and a maritime transportation network that
21 annually supports the movement of \$7 billion in cargo through Wisconsin ports; and

22 Whereas, people greatly value the opportunity to live, work, and play in areas
23 near waters that are vibrant, beautiful, and life-sustaining; and

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

1 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That:*** the members of the
2 Wisconsin Legislature recognize September 7, 2019, as Great Lakes-St. Lawrence
3 Appreciation Day in Wisconsin and encourage citizens to learn about the importance
4 of the Great Lakes system to our economy and culture.

5

(END)