A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To designate September 7, 2019, as Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Appreciation Day.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE SENATE CONCURRING):

WHEREAS, The Great Lakes system, which includes Lake Erie, Lake Huron, Lake Ontario, Lake Michigan, Lake Superior, and the St. Lawrence River, is a globally significant resource and ecosystem, holding 21 per cent of the world's surface freshwater; and

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

WHEREAS, On September 7, 2012, by signing a revised Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the United States and Canada reaffirmed their commitment to binational cooperation "to restore, protect, and enhance the water quality of the Great Lakes to promote the ecological health of the Great Lakes basin"; and
WHEREAS, An abundant supply of clean, affordable water is essential to support a healthy population, a thriving economy, and a well-functioning ecosystem. As the major source of water for communities located within the Great Lakes basin, the Great Lakes system is a vital resource in which all the region's residents share a common interest; and

WHEREAS, The Great Lakes system is an economic powerhouse for the region, supporting industries such as shipping, agriculture, technology, manufacturing, recreation, and tourism; and

WHEREAS, The waters and shoreline of the Great Lakes system provide exceptional habitat for thousands of species of native mammals, birds, amphibians, fish, and plants; and

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

WHEREAS, Ohio's 312-mile stretch of Lake Erie shoreline is among the state's most valuable natural resources and an essential element in Ohio's economic development strategy. Visitors to Ohio's Lake Erie region annually spend billions of dollars that generate a significant amount in state and local taxes. Lake Erie attracts an estimated 1.5 million anglers and hunters who spend $2 billion annually, supports a recreational boating industry that supports more than 19,500 jobs with an economic impact of $3.6 billion annually, provides drinking water for 3 million Ohio residents, and allows for a maritime economy in Ohio that is responsible for more than $2 billion of GDP annually, with more than $1 billion in wages and tens of thousands of jobs; and
WHEREAS, People greatly value the opportunity to live, work, and play in areas near waters that are vibrant, beautiful, and life-sustaining; and

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

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 133rd General Assembly of the State of Ohio, designate September 7, 2019, as Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Appreciation Day; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the Governor and the news media of Ohio.