

As Introduced

**133rd General Assembly
Regular Session
2019-2020**

H. C. R. No. 14

Representatives Sheehy, Rogers

**Cosponsors: Representatives Ghanbari, Miller, J., Crossman, Riedel, Hoops,
Smith, K., Skindell, Patterson, Sobbecki, Strahorn, Swearingen, Blair, Miller, A.,
Lepore-Hagan, Seitz, Weinstein**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To designate September 7, 2019, as Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Appreciation Day. 1
2

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, 3
Lake Huron, Lake Ontario, Lake Michigan, Lake Superior, and the 4
St. Lawrence River, is a globally significant resource and 5
ecosystem, holding 21 per cent of the world's surface 6
freshwater; and 7

WHEREAS, The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River provide 8
drinking water to more than 48 million Americans and Canadians 9
and supply 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 14
restore, protect, and enhance the water quality of the Great 15
Lakes to promote the ecological health of the Great Lakes 16
basin"; and 17

WHEREAS, An abundant supply of clean, affordable water is 18
essential to support a healthy population, a thriving economy, 19
and a well-functioning ecosystem. As the major source of water 20
for communities located within the Great Lakes basin, the Great 21
Lakes system is a vital resource in which all the region's 22
residents share a common interest; and 23

WHEREAS, The Great Lakes system is an economic powerhouse 24
for the region, supporting industries such as shipping, 25
agriculture, technology, manufacturing, recreation, and tourism; 26
and 27

WHEREAS, The waters and shoreline of the Great Lakes system 28
provide exceptional habitat for thousands of species of native 29
mammals, birds, amphibians, fish, and plants; and 30

WHEREAS, The Great Lakes basin is home to numerous beaches, 31
parks, forests, harbors, marinas, piers, lighthouses, 32
boardwalks, and islands that provide recreational opportunities 33
for swimming, hiking, surfing, boating, kayaking, canoeing, 34
fishing, hunting, photography, wildlife watching, and more; and 35

WHEREAS, Ohio's 312-mile stretch of Lake Erie shoreline is 36
among the state's most valuable natural resources and an 37
essential element in Ohio's economic development strategy. 38
Visitors to Ohio's Lake Erie region annually spend billions of 39
dollars that generate a significant amount in state and local 40
taxes. Lake Erie attracts an estimated 1.5 million anglers and 41
hunters who spend \$2 billion annually, supports a recreational 42
boating industry that supports more than 19,500 jobs with an 43
economic impact of \$3.6 billion annually, provides drinking 44
water for 3 million Ohio residents, and allows for a maritime 45
economy in Ohio that is responsible for more than \$2 billion of 46
GDP annually, with more than \$1 billion in wages and tens of 47
thousands of jobs; and 48

WHEREAS, People greatly value the opportunity to live, 49
work, and play in areas near waters that are vibrant, beautiful, 50
and life-sustaining; and 51

WHEREAS, The region's environment, economy, and people rely 52
on the clean, healthy waters of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence 53
River; therefore be it 54

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 133rd General 55
Assembly of the State of Ohio, designate September 7, 2019, as 56
Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Appreciation Day; and be it further 57

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 58
transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the 59
Governor and the news media of Ohio. 60