

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO.12

Senator VanderWall offered the following resolution:

1       A resolution to urge the United States Department of  
2   Agriculture's Forest Service to reverse its recent order banning  
3   the use of alcohol on and within 200 feet of the shoreline of the  
4   National Wild and Scenic River sections of the AuSable, Manistee,  
5   and Pine rivers.

6       Whereas, Over 12,000 miles of rivers and streams are protected  
7   by the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. These waters are  
8   considered to have remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish  
9   and wildlife, or other similar values and are managed to provide a  
10   wide range of recreational opportunities to the public. Three of  
11   Michigan's designated National and Wild Scenic Rivers are located  
12   in the Huron-Manistee National Forest and managed by the National  
13   Forest Service (NFS); and

1       Whereas, The NFS recently banned the use of alcohol within 200  
2 feet of the water and on all sections of the AuSable, Manistee, and  
3 Pine rivers located within the national forest. The NFS states that  
4 pollution related to drinking and disruption of fish and wildlife  
5 habitat are the reasons for the ban; and

6       Whereas, The federal ban is overreaching and redundant.  
7 Current Michigan law governs river health, boater safety, and  
8 littering of our waterways. Additionally, current NFS policy  
9 suggests a limited number of canned beverages per river user. The  
10 problem is not drinking on these waters, but the proper disposal of  
11 containers and irresponsible use. Rather than ban a legal, adult  
12 activity, the federal government should allow Michigan to enforce  
13 our laws; and

14       Whereas, The federal action will hurt Michigan tourism. Many  
15 Michigan residents and visitors from other states enjoy a leisurely  
16 paddle on the waters of this state and contribute more than \$140  
17 million to Michigan's economy. A ban on alcohol will detract from  
18 this experience for many paddlers who may then find a different way  
19 to spend a hot Michigan summer's day than on the water; now,  
20 therefore, be it

21       Resolved by the Senate, That we urge the United States  
22 Department of Agriculture's Forest Service to reverse its recent  
23 order banning the use of alcohol on and within 200 feet of the  
24 shoreline of the National Wild and Scenic River sections of the  
25 AuSable, Manistee, and Pine rivers; and be it further

26       Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
27 United States Secretary of Agriculture, the President of the United  
28 States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of  
29 Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional

**1** delegation.