

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO.57

Reps. Kuppa, Cavanagh, Aiyash, Puri, Morse, Brixie, Hertel, Sabo, Thanedar, O'Neal, Anthony, Rogers, Cambensy, Steenland, Sowerby, Stone, Peterson, Garza, Shannon, Steckloff, Scott, Whitsett, Haadsma, Breen, Hope, Witwer, Neeley, Ellison, Clemente, Brabec, Tyrone Carter, Manoogian, Rabhi, Jones, LaGrand, Camilleri, Pohutsky, Young, Bolden, Hood, Yancey, Cherry, Liberati, Sneller and Weiss offered the following resolution:

1       A resolution to declare March 22, 2021, 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

1 all human rights"; and

2       Whereas, The theme of World Water Day 2021 is 'Valuing Water'  
3 and we recognize water-related issues beyond those of pricing to  
4 include the environmental, social, and cultural value people place  
5 on water; and

6       Whereas, Clean water is integral to the global economy and  
7 international security and nearly 1.5 billion laborers around the  
8 world work in water-related sectors. Reliable water infrastructure  
9 is integral to the health, safety, and well-being of people; and

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

13       Whereas, The Anishinaabek, the original people of the Great  
14 Lakes region, have a special relationship with the water and  
15 believe and teach that water is life necessary to sustain them both  
16 spiritually and physically. Based on these fundamental values,  
17 Anishinaabek people prioritize ensuring the waters of the Great  
18 Lakes are healthy and clean for future generations; and

19       Whereas, On admission to statehood, Michigan became the owner  
20 as sovereign to the waters of the Great Lakes and holds them under  
21 the public trust doctrine for the benefit of the people of the  
22 state of Michigan and constitute a public trust to protect the  
23 public's right to use the waters of the Great Lakes for purposes  
24 such as navigation, hunting, and fishing; and

25       Whereas, Michigan has the largest freshwater coastline in the  
26 United States and has more than 11,000 inland lakes. A Michigander  
27 is never more than six miles away from a fresh body of water; and

28       Whereas, The Great Lakes make up more than 20 percent of the  
29 world's fresh surface water supply and are a source of drinking

1 water, sanitation, health, livelihood, and recreation for about 40  
2 million people - in addition to supporting more than 1.3 million  
3 jobs that generate \$82 billion in wages annually; and

4       Whereas, Article IV, Section 52 of the Michigan Constitution  
5 holds that it is a "paramount public concern" of government to  
6 conserve and develop natural resources while protecting water and  
7 other natural resources from pollution, impairment and destruction;  
8 and

9       Whereas, The Michigan Environmental Protection Act calls for  
10 "protection of the air, water, and other natural resources and the  
11 public trust in these resources from pollution, impairment, or  
12 destruction" by government; and

13       Whereas, Michigan's jurisprudence and laws have long  
14 recognized and upheld the Public Trust Doctrine as a fundamental  
15 legal principle, according to which the duty of government as  
16 Trustee of the Public Trust is to maintain public ownership and  
17 control of surface water for the common good unimpaired from one  
18 generation to the next; and

19       Whereas, The International Joint Commission has recommended  
20 that the states and communities implement the public trust in water  
21 as an overarching, backstop framework and set of principles to  
22 protect the waters, natural resources, and integrity of watersheds  
23 and ecosystems within the Great Lakes Basin; and

24       Whereas, Michigan's waters and the Great Lakes are important  
25 to tourism and other industries, for travelers come from all over  
26 the world to swim, boat, and enjoy the grandeur of Michigan's  
27 coastline; and

28       Whereas, The waters of the Great Lakes and Michigan's  
29 tributary rivers, streams, and groundwater are a globally unique

1 fresh water system and a magnificent and unparalleled natural  
2 resource endowment; now, therefore, be it

3       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
4 this legislative body declare March 22, 2021, as Michigan Water Day  
5 and World Water Day in the state of Michigan. It is with great  
6 honor and appreciation that we take this time to join other states  
7 and nations in expressing our commitment to ensuring that clean  
8 affordable drinking water is available to all Michiganders and  
9 commit ourselves to promotion of public awareness to prevent our  
10 precious water from pollution and depletion. On this day, we will  
11 celebrate and honor the pure water in our state, our country, and  
12 our world; and be it further

13       Resolved, That while we recognize the interconnectedness of  
14 humanity and appreciate global challenges, we also recognize our  
15 duty as Michiganders in protecting our natural resources and  
16 instilling a sense of pride in ourselves and our children for our  
17 Great Lakes; and be it further

18       Resolved, We cherish and acknowledge the special  
19 responsibility of protecting Michigan's waters for current and  
20 future generations.