STATE OF INDIANA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
INDIANAPOLIS

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes system, including Lake Erie, Lake Huron, Lake Michigan, Lake Ontario, Lake Superior and the St. Lawrence River, is a globally significant resource and ecosystem, holding 21 percent of the world's surface freshwater, providing drinking water to more than 48 million Americans and Canadians, and supplying 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; and

WHEREAS, as a 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 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, Lake Michigan's shoreline adds extraordinary economic value to Indiana, with a waterborne shipping industry that contributes $1.1 billion per year in economic activity to the state and provides over 100,000 jobs, a commercial and sport fishery industry with an annual value of nearly $400 million, tourism dollars from two million annual visitors to Indiana Dunes National Park and 1.2 million visitors to Indiana Dunes State Park and recreational boating opportunities that contribute over $2 billion annually to Indiana's economy; and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes basin and St. Lawrence River provide clean, healthy waters for the region's environment, economy and its citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Eric J. Holcomb, Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby proclaim September 7, 2019 as

GREAT LAKES-ST. LAWRENCE APPRECIATION DAY

in the State of Indiana, and invite all citizens to duly note this occasion.

In testimony whereof, I have set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of State, done at the City of Indianapolis, this 7th day of September the year of our Lord 2019 and of the Independence of the United States 244.

BY THE GOVERNOR: [Signature]

[Seal]