



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Valley has over 41,000 miles of rivers, lakes, and streams; and

**WHEREAS**, the recreation industry along the Tennessee River system generates almost \$12 billion annually; and

**WHEREAS**, the river system supports our economy, facilitating the transport of 50 million tons of goods; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Valley Authority resources the Tennessee River to help provide electricity to an estimated 9 million people via 154 power companies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee River watershed has been identified as the most biodiverse river in North America including 230 species of fish, which is twice that of the Mississippi River; and

**WHEREAS**, Keep the Tennessee River Beautiful is the first Keep America Beautiful affiliate in the nation to focus solely on a river, striving to rally and unify communities along the river to keep the Tennessee River healthy for generations to come; and

**WHEREAS**, last year over 4,800 volunteers picked up over 173 tons—or 346,000 pounds—of trash from the waterways throughout the Tennessee Valley, representing 41 grassroots organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee Department of Transportation, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and Keep Tennessee Beautiful work to support and enable local organizations to protect the waterways within their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tennessee River brings us together as one watershed community within seven states, including Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina and Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, city ports along the Tennessee River are considered international ports given that we are part of a river system that feeds into the Gulf of Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, Keep the Tennessee River Beautiful and Keep Tennessee Beautiful serve to raise awareness of the importance of protecting our most abundant resource and unifying communities across the state of Tennessee to take action;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2019 as

*Keep the Tennessee River Watershed  
Beautiful Month*

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this twenty-eighth day of May, 2019.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*Joe Berges*

Secretary of State