



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, shipments by barge rather than by rail or truck saves businesses about \$1 billion each year in transportation of goods with 50 million tons of goods shipped each year; and

WHEREAS, shoreline property owners contribute almost \$1.04 million to local economies annually; 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 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, 434 volunteers helped Keep the Tennessee River Beautiful to remove 48,319 pounds of trash in 2019 alone, and another 41 grassroots organizations rallied 1,333 volunteers to remove an additional 473 tons within the Tennessee River watershed; 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 2020 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-first day of September, 2020.

Bill Lee

Governor

Ju Hargett

Secretary of State