



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, 369 volunteers helped Keep the Tennessee River Beautiful to remove 61,499 pounds of trash in 2020 alone; and

WHEREAS, another 23 grassroots organizations rallied 2,739 volunteers to remove an additional 223,843 lbs. 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 October 2021 as

Keep the Tennessee River Watershed Beautiful Month

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 nineteenth day of August, 2021.

Bill Lee

Governor

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Secretary of State