



STATE OF TENNESSEE
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

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

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

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Valley Authority resources the Tennessee River to help provide electricity to an estimated 10 million residents via 153 power companies; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee River watershed has been identified as the most biodiverse river in North America including 230 species of fish; and

WHEREAS, Keep the Tennessee River Beautiful is the first Keep America Beautiful affiliate to focus solely on a river; and

WHEREAS, 3,805 volunteers have helped Keep the Tennessee River Beautiful to remove over 600,000 pounds of trash since putting their first boat in the water in 2019; 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, 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 2023 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-ninth day of September, 2023.

Bill Lee

Governor

Julie Hight

Secretary of State