



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**, 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; and

**WHEREAS**, 4,465 volunteers helped Keep the Tennessee River Beautiful to remove over 758,033 pounds of trash since 2019 after putting their first boat in the water; and

**WHEREAS**, last year alone, 994 volunteers came to Keep the Tennessee River Beautiful cleanups and removed a total of 218,729 lbs. of trash from shorelines; 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 October 2024 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 fourth day of October 2024.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

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Secretary of State