



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 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**, to date, over 5,100 volunteers have helped to remove over 970,00 pounds of trash since putting their first boat in the water in 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, this month, Keep the Tennessee River Beautiful Volunteers will help to surpass the milestone of 1 million pounds of trash removed from the Tennessee River watershed; 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 Tennessee, do hereby proclaim October 2025 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 ninth day of September 2025.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

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Secretary of State