

Reps. Driskell, Townsend, Derek Miller, Darany, Greig, Heise, Love, Dianda, Irwin, Sarah Roberts, Zemke, Pagan, Talabi, Liberati, Plawecki, Faris, Smiley, Yanez, Lane, Chirkun, Forlini, Glenn, Inman, Brunner, LaVoy, Geiss, Cochran, Hoadley, Wittenberg, Guerra, Moss, Garrett, Brinks, Jenkins, Vaupel, Kesto, Sheppard, Canfield, Aaron Miller, Jacobsen, Brett Roberts, Pagel, Crawford, Hughes, Somerville, Lyons, Victory, Howrylak, Price and Singh offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 132.

A resolution to declare September 10, 2015, as Watershed Council Appreciation Day in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, Michigan is a natural treasure that contains 63 major watersheds, 267 sub-watershed areas, over 11,000 inland lakes, and 36,000 miles of streams, rivers and creeks that meander through diverse ecosystems such as remnant forests, agricultural lands, and a complex system of wetlands, lakes, and urban landscapes that drain into the Great Lakes; and

Whereas, Michigan watersheds supply drinking water to millions of Michigan citizens, support some of Michigan's finest fisheries, rare ecosystems, and diverse plant and animal species; and

Whereas, Michigan's bodies of water and their watersheds contain vast amounts of the region's public recreation lands, and are home to numerous threatened and endangered plant and animal species and habitat types; and

Whereas, There are 46 watershed councils and associations in Michigan dedicated to protecting and restoring rivers, creeks, streams, lakes, and their watersheds for healthy and vibrant communities; and

Whereas, Michigan watershed councils create and administer programs of distinction recognized nationally and globally for their excellence in demonstrating collaborative river and watershed management; and

Whereas, Michigan watershed councils are environmental success stories helping to improve water quality, reduce harmful ecological conditions, and ensure the long-term health of their watersheds with on-the-ground projects and policies; and

Whereas, The Alliance of Rouge Communities, Anchor Bay Watershed Group, Augusta Creek Watershed Association, Bear Creek Watershed Council, Clinton River Watershed Council, Coldwater River Watershed Council, Flint River Watershed Coalition, Friends of the Au Gres-Rifle Watershed, Friends of the Detroit River, Friends of the Looking Glass River Watershed Council, Friends of the Rouge, Friends of the St. Clair River Watershed, Friends of the St. Joseph River, Friends of the Maple River, Huron River Watershed Council, Kalamazoo River Watershed Council, Les Cheneaux Watershed Council, Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds, Macatawa Watershed Project, Mona Lake Watershed Council, Muskegon Lake Watershed Partnership, Muskegon River Watershed Assembly, Pere Marquette Watershed Council, River Raisin Watershed Council, Saginaw Bay Watershed Network, Superior Watershed Partnership, The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay, Thornapple River Watershed Council, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, Upper Grand River Watershed Alliance, White River Watershed Partnership, Rogue River Watershed Partners, Chippewa Watershed Conservancy, Central Lake Superior Watershed Partnership, Cheboygan River Watershed Committee, Friends of the Jordan River Watershed, Manistique River Watershed Partnership, Munuscong River Watershed Association, Rifle River Watershed Restoration Committee, Sturgeon/Otter River Watershed Council, Straits Watershed Council, Thunder Bay River Watershed Council, Two Rivers Coalition, Whetstone Watershed Project, Yellow Dog

Watershed Preserve, and Battle Creek River Watershed Project all envision a future of clean and plentiful water for people and nature where citizens and government are effective and courageous champions for the health of all of Michigan's diverse bodies of water; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, The members of this legislative body declare September 10, 2015, as Watershed Council Appreciation Day in the state of Michigan.