

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 69

Senator Lauwers, Ananich, Bayer, Bizon, Brinks, Bullock, Chang, Daley, Geiss, Horn, Johnson, LaSata, Lucido, MacDonald, McCann, McMorrow, Polehanki, Santana, Schmidt, VanderWall, Wojno and Zorn offered the following resolution:

1       A resolution to designate August 19, 2019, as Michigan Water  
2 Trails Day.

3       Whereas, Michigan has more miles of Great Lakes coastline than  
4 any other state and thousands of miles of rivers and streams; and

5       Whereas, The use of waterways for transportation in Michigan  
6 is not new. Native Americans first used them for sustenance and  
7 trade, early European settlers used them to transport goods and  
8 timber water. Such resources were the foundation of Michigan's  
9 earliest manufacturing and shipping industries; and

1       Whereas, Michigan has over 4,700 miles of water trails,  
2       traversing some of Michigan's most remote and natural environments  
3       as well as some of the state's most industrial and urban  
4       environments. These water trails exist along Michigan's Great Lakes  
5       coastline, connecting to water trails in other states and provinces  
6       throughout the Great Lakes basin; and

7       Whereas, Water trails help support and promote environmental  
8       awareness and stewardship of Michigan's waterways and water  
9       quality; and

10       Whereas, A water trail is a designated route on a navigable  
11       waterway such as a lake, river, canal, or bay, that is designed and  
12       managed to create a positive outdoor recreation experience for the  
13       user; and

14       Whereas, Water trails also feature well-developed access  
15       points, often near significant historical, environmental, or  
16       cultural points of interest, and often have nearby amenities like  
17       restaurants, hotels, and campgrounds; and

18       Whereas, Paddling Michigan's waterways for recreation and  
19       other purposes has been a part of Michigan's long history. Paddle  
20       sports are one of the fastest-growing outdoor activities in the  
21       nation, contributing more than \$140 million to Michigan's economy;  
22       and

23       Whereas, A formal state water trail and designation program  
24       was recently established by the Michigan Department of Natural  
25       Resources working in conjunction with local paddle groups, local  
26       units of government, the Land and Information Access Association,  
27       the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance, and other non-profit  
28       partners to designate and support existing water trails and help  
29       solidify best practices and standards for future water trail

1 development; and

2       Whereas, Eight waterways totaling 540-plus miles that flow  
3 through more than a dozen counties have been selected as the first  
4 state-designated water trails in Michigan, which include all of the  
5 following:

6       ·Central River Raisin Water Trail, 11 miles in Monroe County;

7       ·Chain of Lakes Water Trail, more than 80 miles in Antrim and  
8 Kalkaska counties;

9       ·Huron River Water Trail, 104 miles in Livingston, Oakland,  
10 Washtenaw and Wayne counties;

11       ·Island Loop Route, 10 miles in St. Clair County;

12       ·Flint River Trail, 72 miles in Genesee and Lapeer counties;

13       ·Middle Grand River Water Trail, 87 miles in Clinton, Eaton,  
14 Ingham and Ionia counties;

15       ·Shiawassee River Trail, 88 miles in Genesee, Oakland, Saginaw  
16 and Shiawassee counties;

17       ·Upper Grand River Water Trail, 91 miles in Eaton, Ingham and  
18 Jackson counties; and

19       Whereas, Outdoor recreation-based tourism is experiencing  
20 major growth right now. Designating these rivers as official water  
21 trails shines an even brighter light on our incredible natural  
22 resources; and

23       Whereas, Highlighting water trail opportunities in Michigan  
24 will encourage more outdoor recreation and healthier lifestyles and  
25 also serve as regional destinations that will give a boost to local  
26 economies; and

27       Whereas, With Michigan leading the nation in land-based trail  
28 mileage and the unmatched water resources we have, celebrating our  
29 water trails is another important step we can take to provide our

1 citizens with a world-class trail system; now, therefore, be it

2       Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative  
3 body recognize and celebrate water trails as this new component of  
4 the nation's leading trail program, while establishing August 19,  
5 2019, as Michigan Water Trails Day.