

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 256

Reps. Kuppa, Stone, Brenda Carter, Cynthia Johnson, Pohutsky, Anthony, Hood, Ellison, Neeley, Scott, LaGrand, Coleman, Liberati, Sowerby, Rogers, Hertel and Hope offered the following resolution:

1       A resolution to declare March 22, 2022, as Michigan Water Day  
2 and World Water Day in the state of Michigan.

3       Whereas, Since 1993, the United Nations has designated March  
4 22nd as World Water Day. In 2010, the United Nations acknowledged  
5 "the importance of equitable access to safe and clean drinking  
6 water and sanitation as an integral component of the realization of  
7 all human rights"; and

8       Whereas, The theme of World Water Day 2022 is 'Groundwater:  
9 Making the Invisible Visible;' and

10       Whereas, Michigan's groundwater and surface water are  
11 connected as part of the water cycle and need to be protected

1 holistically; and

2       Whereas, Groundwater flow that discharges to lakes and streams  
3 sustains cold water fisheries, stream ecology, and wetlands, and  
4 also accounts for approximately 25% of the volume of the Great  
5 Lakes, the world's largest and most magnificent freshwater system;  
6 and

7       Whereas, Michigan's groundwater provides drinking water to 45%  
8 of Michigan's population from private wells and municipal supplies,  
9 while surface water is the source of drinking water for the  
10 remainder of the population, primarily through municipal supplies;  
11 and

12       Whereas, Regardless of whether they use groundwater or surface  
13 water, all Michiganders have a human right to clean, safe, and  
14 affordable drinking water; and

15       Whereas, Contamination of groundwater has occurred in over  
16 10,000 locations in Michigan. In some of these locations,  
17 Michiganders are barred from using groundwater as drinking water;  
18 and

19       Whereas, Michigan's water infrastructure financing must  
20 include multi-billion-dollar investments in protecting drinking  
21 water sources and supply systems associated with both groundwater  
22 and surface water, and

23       Whereas, Water services should meet the needs of all  
24 Michiganders, including those who are the most vulnerable, so that  
25 their voices are heard in the decision-making process; and

26       Whereas, The Anishinaabek, the original people of the Great  
27 Lakes region, have a special relationship with the water and  
28 believe and teach that water is necessary to sustain them both  
29 spiritually and physically. Based on these fundamental values,

1 Anishinaabek people prioritize ensuring that the waters of the  
2 Great Lakes are healthy and clean for future generations; and

3       Whereas, On admission to statehood, Michigan became the owner  
4 as sovereign to the waters of the Great Lakes and groundwater and  
5 holds them under the public trust doctrine for the benefit of the  
6 people of the state of Michigan, and

7       Whereas, Article IV, Section 52 of the Michigan Constitution  
8 holds that it is a "paramount public concern" of government to  
9 conserve and develop natural resources while protecting water and  
10 other natural resources from pollution, impairment, and  
11 destruction; and

12       Whereas, The Michigan Environmental Protection Act calls for  
13 "protection of the air, water, and other natural resources and the  
14 public trust in these resources from pollution, impairment, or  
15 destruction" by government; and

16       Whereas, The waters of the Great Lakes and Michigan's  
17 tributary rivers, streams, and groundwater are a globally unique  
18 freshwater system and a magnificent and unparalleled natural  
19 resource endowment; now, therefore, be it

20       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
21 this legislative body declare March 22, 2022, as Michigan Water Day  
22 and World Water Day in the state of Michigan. It is with great  
23 honor and appreciation that we take this time to join other states  
24 and nations in expressing our commitment to ensuring that  
25 groundwater is fully protected; that safe, clean, and affordable  
26 drinking water is available to all Michiganders from both surface  
27 water and groundwater; and commit ourselves to promoting public  
28 awareness to prevent our precious water from pollution and  
29 depletion. On this day, we will celebrate and honor the pure water

1 in our state, our country, and our world; and be it further  
2 Resolved, While we recognize the interconnectedness of  
3 humanity and appreciate global challenges, we also recognize our  
4 duty as Michiganders in protecting our natural resources and  
5 instilling a sense of pride in ourselves and our children for our  
6 Great Lakes; and be it further

7 Resolved, That we cherish and acknowledge the special  
8 responsibility of protecting Michigan's waters for current and  
9 future generations.