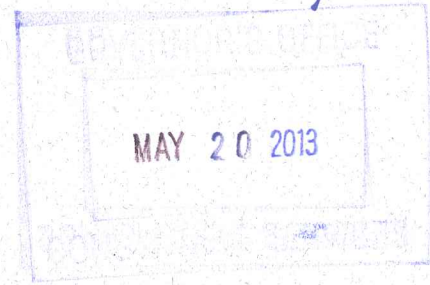


North American Lake Management Society

May 15, 2013

Governor Deval Patrick
Massachusetts State House
Office of the Governor, Room 280
Boston, Massachusetts 02133



Dear Governor Patrick:

The North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) mission is to *foster the management and protection of lakes and reservoirs for today and tomorrow.*

July is *Lakes Appreciation Month*. During this month NALMS will promote lake awareness and the importance of clean and abundant water for all. We hope that you will embrace *Lakes Appreciation Month* and help us fulfill our mission by promoting healthy lakes in Massachusetts.

Lakes Appreciation Month affirms the importance of lakes for our drinking water, energy production, food production, and for aesthetic and recreational value. *Lakes Appreciation Month* also emphasizes how lakes contribute to groundwater reserves, reduce the frequency and severity of floods, and impact our local and regional climate. By protecting the health of our lakes we defend the vitality of the animals and plants that depend on them, including humanity!

The U.S. EPA's National Lake Assessment reveals that many of our lakes are imperiled due to poor near shore habitat, too many nutrients, invasive plants and animals, and other issues. Our Nation's current economic situation has led to budget cuts in many environmental programs including lake management programs. In light of these issues NALMS requests your help to promote *Lakes Appreciation Month* and to protect lakes in Massachusetts.

We request your consideration of the following actions to promote *Lakes Appreciation Month*:

- Please issue a proclamation declaring July 2013 to be *Lakes Appreciation Month*. We have attached an example proclamation to this letter.
- Please work with your state agencies, legislature, and key environmental groups in Massachusetts to secure or maintain funding for lake programs to help protect your local lakes against the many threats they face in a changing environment.
- Please reach out to congressional delegates of Massachusetts and ask that they initiate and/or support legislation on the national level that protects and funds lake programs.

With the many challenges our country has ahead of us it is easy to lose sight of these issues, but with your help Massachusetts can serve as a reminder to all states and their citizens that lakes are a key element of a healthy environment, healthy community and healthy economy. We thank you in advance for your help in promoting July 2013 as *Lakes Appreciation Month* and for protecting these jewels of the Massachusetts landscape.

Sincerely,

Ann Shortelle
NALMS President

Amy Smagula
NALMS Region 1 Director (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)

Please see the attached list of Massachusetts citizens who have co-signed this letter

Massachusetts citizen co-signers

- Ernie Benoit

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North American Lake Management Society

LAKES APPRECIATION MONTH SAMPLE PROCLAMATION

This sample is adapted from the State of Colorado's 2012 proclamation

WHEREAS, lakes and reservoirs are among [STATE NAME]'s most valuable natural resources; and

WHEREAS, lakes and reservoirs provide drinking water, irrigation, energy, recreation, scenic beauty, and habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, these beneficial uses have been of vital importance to [STATE NAME]'s history, growth, and financial health; and

WHEREAS, our lakes and reservoirs improve the quality of life for all of [STATE NAME]'s residents and their importance should not go unnoticed; and

WHEREAS, the State of [STATE NAME] recognizes the need to protect these lakes and reservoirs for future generations;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, [GOVERNOR'S NAME], Governor of the State of [STATE NAME], do hereby proclaim July 20xx as LAKES APPRECIATION MONTH in the State of [STATE NAME], and invite all citizens to take due note of the observance.

You can find more sample proclamations on our website at <http://bit.ly/LMP7bt>