

WHEREAS, the surface area and number of lakes in North America far exceed those of any other continent, with the United States alone being home to 41 million acres of lakes and reservoirs; and

WHEREAS, lakes are a valuable natural resource of the Palmetto State, supplying water for municipal, industrial, and agricultural use, assisting with flood control, providing scenic beauty and habitat for wildlife, and offering a variety of recreational opportunities such as boating, swimming, and fishing; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately, many lakes and ponds are impaired by pollution from sources including agricultural runoff, sewage treatment plants, and urban drainage; and

WHEREAS, Lakes Appreciation Month calls attention to the importance of preserving our lakes and ponds for future generations.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim July 2009 as

LAKES APPRECIATION MONTH

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to celebrate the scenic beauty, recreational opportunities, and public and economic services provided by lakes in the Palmetto State.