

**State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation**

WHEREAS, lakes and ponds are among Vermont’s most valuable natural resources; and

WHEREAS, lakes and ponds contribute to the Vermont landscape by providing irreplaceable fish and wildlife habitat, stormwater storage capacity, groundwater replenishment, and other biotic and abiotic ecosystem services; and

WHEREAS, lakes and ponds provide drinking water, transportation, recreational and tourism opportunities, and scenic beauty for the residents and visitors of Vermont; and

WHEREAS, these beneficial uses are of fundamental importance to Vermont’s history, culture, and economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, our lakes and ponds improve the quality of life for all Vermont residents, and their importance should not go unnoticed; and

WHEREAS, Vermont recognizes the need to protect the ecological integrity and natural resiliency of these lakes and ponds for future generations particularly as climate change creates new challenges.

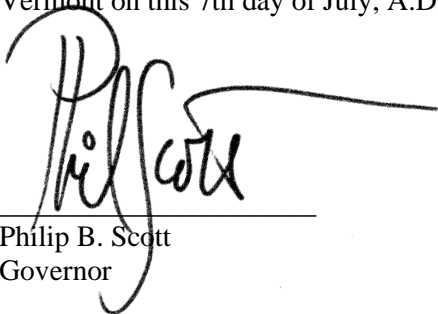
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim July, 2023 as


LAKES APPRECIATION MONTH

in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 7th day of July, A.D. 2023.




Philip B. Scott
Governor


Brittney L. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs