June 18, 2012

«AddressBlock»

Dear Governor «Name»:

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 «State».

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 recently concluded a National Lake Assessment which 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 «State».

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

- Please issue a proclamation declaring July 2012 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 «State» 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 «State» 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 «State» 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 2012 as ***Lakes Appreciation Month*** and for protecting these jewels of the «State» landscape.

Sincerely,

Al Sosiak	«Local_contact_name»
NALMS President	«Local_contact_title»
	«Local_contact_NALMS_connection»
	Citizen of «State»