

**STATE OF ILLINOIS**

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

**Proclamation**

*WHEREAS, the State of Illinois has been uniquely defined geographically, historically and economically by the Illinois River, Lake Michigan, and other waterways which are treasures that should be preserved and saved for all time; and,*

*WHEREAS, the stewardship of Illinois' waterways is a noble duty proudly assumed by elected and non-elected government officials at the state, county and local levels, by advocates, and by all who use our waterways for drinking water, commerce or recreation; and,*

*WHEREAS, countless species of fish, birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals, insects and plants rely on healthy Illinois waterways; and,*

*WHEREAS, some of the challenges faced by our waterways are also faced by waterways worldwide, such as invasive species, sedimentation, flooding, drought, obsolete dams and aging water treatment facilities; and,*

*WHEREAS, inspired by the success of the Sister Cities program, the Illinois Sister Rivers and Lakes Initiative was launched in 2007 to share innovative solutions to common problems, boost tourism and raise awareness; and,*

*WHEREAS, Illinois has entered into partnerships with waterway authorities in eight nations on four continents: Brazil's Capibaribe River, China's Huangpu River, Ireland's River Lee, Israel's Lake Kinneret, Japan's Saitama Prefecture, Mexico's Lake Pátzcuaro, Poland's Vistula River and South Korea's Han River; and,*

*WHEREAS, through the Sister Rivers and Lakes Initiative, Illinois has shared some of its successes with waterway expert around the globe, including the "Mud-to-Parks" program, Illinois Clean Water Initiative, and our efforts to remove unneeded dams while informing boaters of dam safety; and,*

*THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim September 7-13, 2014 as "ILLINOIS SISTER RIVERS AND LAKES WEEK."*

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.*



*Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,*  
 this SECOND day of SEPTEMBER, in  
 the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and  
FOURTEEN, and of the State of Illinois,  
 one hundred and NINETY-SIXTH.

*Deese White*  
 SECRETARY OF STATE

*Pat Quinn*  
 GOVERNOR