Conservation Proclamation

WHEREAS: Minnesota is the land of 10,000 lakes; and

WHEREAS: Minnesota has over 2.6 million anglers and boaters generating 7.3 billion dollars toward our economy; and

WHEREAS: The State of Minnesota will celebrate the time-honored traditions of the annual Minnesota Fishing Opener on May 9th

WHEREAS: Invasive species pose a serious threat to Minnesota lakes and streams; and outdoor economy

WHEREAS: The Clean Drain Dry Initiative of Wildlife Forever, a non-profit conservation organization based in White Bear Lake, Minnesota, coordinates public outreach and education to stop the spread of invasive species; and

WHEREAS: The Clean Drain Dry Initiative and coalition of partners urges everyone to: CLEAN all watercraft and related equipment and remove any visible plants, animals, and sediment onsite; DRAIN all water from the watercraft and related equipment after exiting the water; and DRY everything for 5 days before entering different waters; and

WHEREAS: Partners in conservation who are working collaboratively to halt the invasive species include the fishing and boating industry, Minnesota counties, Minnesota lakes associations, nongovernmental organizations, tribal corporations, federal and state agencies, tourism bureaus and businesses; and

WHEREAS: The best management practices to change behavior and protect Minnesota’s outdoor heritage is Clean. Drain. Dry.

WHEREAS: Fishing, boating and outdoor recreation are vital activities to the physical and mental health of the public and can be practiced safely and responsibly while Social Distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Join us in Celebrating Saturday, May 9, 2020, as Minnesota:

CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY. DAY