STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: The majestic bear is a symbol of the wilderness and is an integral part of our natural ecosystems; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas's earliest-known nickname was the Bear State, referring to a time when settlers found the territory home to many black bears; and

WHEREAS: A growing awareness of the benefits of maintaining biological diversity has raised public interest in bears of all varieties; and

WHEREAS: The Little Rock Zoo will celebrate Bear Awareness Week as part of its ongoing commitment to educate the public by providing programs about bears and how best to peacefully coexist with them; and

WHEREAS: The future of the bear population in the United States remains uncertain and depends upon continued public support and increased understanding of the essential role bears play in nature; and

WHEREAS: Public education is the key to improving knowledge about and appreciation of bears; and

WHEREAS: In recognition of Bear Awareness Week 2015, bears, their habits and their habitats are being highlighted to help keep these intelligent and powerful creatures a part of our ecosystem for generations to come;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim May 10 through 16, 2015, as

BEAR AWARENESS WEEK

across the State of Arkansas, and I encourage my fellow citizens to participate in the activities and discussions that highlight the significance of bears.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 24th day of April, in the year of our Lord 2015.

Asa Hutchinson

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Mark Martin

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State