STATE OF ARKANSAS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Arkansas, The Natural State, is a special place that has more than 2,400 named lakes and reservoirs larger than five acres that when combined cover more than 600,000 acres within our boundaries; and

WHEREAS: Lakes and ponds are vital resources contributing to the Arkansas way of life and environment, providing sources of recreation, scenic beauty, and habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas lakes are valuable economic resources for the state's businesses, tourism, and municipal governments, and nearly 1.5 million Arkansans depend upon lakes and reservoirs as their source of drinking water; and

WHEREAS: Every year, thousands of Arkansans flock to our clean waters, spending more than 25 million of their recreation days on Arkansas lakes and reservoirs, contributing over $320 million to Arkansas's economy; and

WHEREAS: The State of Arkansas recognizes the importance of protecting these lakes and ponds for future generations;

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 July 2018, as

LAKES APPRECIATION MONTH

across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens to participate in recreation, appreciation, and stewardship activities and enjoy the benefits and scenic beauty of our lakes, ponds, and reservoirs.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 14th day of May, in the year of our Lord 2018.

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:

Mark Martin

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State