STATE OF ARKANSAS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: National Safe Boating Week is May 18th through 24th, 2019, and will raise awareness that will improve safety and reduce accidents in our Nation's waterways; and

WHEREAS: In the Natural State, where the scenic and abundant streams, lakes, and rivers draw many to relax and enjoy water sports and activities in the great outdoors, it is essential that boating enthusiasts recognize the importance of taking certain precautions, such as always wearing a life jacket and never operating a boat under the influence of alcohol; and

WHEREAS: Approximately 600 people die each year in boating-related accidents in the United States, and nearly 80 percent of these are fatalities caused by drowning. The vast majority of these accidents are caused by human error and poor judgment and not by the boat, equipment, or environmental factors; many of these fatalities could have been prevented if life jackets had been worn; and

WHEREAS: This year's slogan for Safe Boating Week is "Wear It", which encourages the use of Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) while engaged in water sports;

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 18th through May 24th, 2019, as

ARKANSAS SAFE BOATING WEEK

across the State, and I urge all citizens to improve safety on the waterways by enrolling in a safe-boating course, wearing life jackets, and enjoying their time on the water responsibly.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 5th day of April, in the year of our Lord 2019.

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

Attest:

John Thurston, Secretary Of State