

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: The State of Arkansas recognizes the contributions of Arkansas firms owned and operated by minorities, women, and service-disabled veterans, who contribute to the state's economy in innumerable ways; and

WHEREAS: These entrepreneurs are dreamers and hard workers with an idea for a product or service, and they come from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS: The Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MWOBE) division within the Arkansas Economic Development Commission of the Department of Commerce promotes the growth and sustainability within that sector by providing business owners with real-world technical and professional assistance, certification, procurement, networking, capital, and contracting opportunities while utilizing our partners in state and federal government, higher education, lending institutions, and the private sector; and

WHEREAS: Approximately 25% of small businesses in Arkansas are owned by women, while the number of minority-owned businesses is around 14.7%; and

WHEREAS: The contributions of minorities, women, and service-disabled veterans are vital in cities large and small, in every county across the state. The State of Arkansas has a law in place requiring 15 percent of the total amount expended in state-funded and state-directed public construction programs, and the purchase of goods and services for the state each fiscal year is paid to certified minority businesses, those who have met the eligibility criteria through MWOBE; and

WHEREAS: The division maintains a list of minority vendors in every industry, from retail and restaurants, to construction and hospitality; and

WHEREAS: Additionally, the Minority Business Loan Mobilization Guaranty Program helps Arkansas state-certified minority businesses with loan guarantees from \$10,000 up to \$100,000. By providing such services and supporting this sector of business owners, the State of Arkansas ensures the diverse economy enjoyed by its citizens will continue to thrive;

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 September 12, 2019, as

MINORITY AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DAY

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 18th day of June, in the year of our Lord 2019.




Asa Hutchinson, Governor


John Thurston, Secretary Of State