

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Agriculture is Arkansas's largest industry and contributes over \$19.4 billion to our state's economy each year; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas harvested 35,000 acres and produced 175 million pounds of peanuts in 13 Arkansas counties in 2021; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas's 2021 yield led the nation with a 5,000-pound yield per acre, followed by Virginia with 4,700 pounds, Georgia's 4,450, and Oklahoma's 4,400 pounds per acre; and

WHEREAS: The value of Arkansas's peanut crop is more than \$42 million, making it the sixth largest cash crop in the state, and a significant contributor to our agriculture industry; and

WHEREAS: The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in 2014 formally recognized Arkansas as a primary peanut-producing state, granting Arkansas peanut producers a seat on the National Peanut Board; and

WHEREAS: Greg Gill, a peanut farmer from Walnut Ridge, was the first Arkansan to serve as the chairman of the National Peanut Board in 2018, and Gregory Baltz is the current Arkansas representative; and

WHEREAS: Peanuts add diversity to Arkansas's number one industry and provide opportunity for sustainable crop rotations; and

WHEREAS: Peanuts and peanut butter are naturally cholesterol-free and a protein powerhouse, containing more protein than any other nut; and

WHEREAS: Peanuts are an excellent source of niacin, magnesium, and contain vitamin E, biotin, and copper, along with a host of other nutrients; and

WHEREAS: Peanuts contain approximately 80 percent unsaturated fat, which is considered the "good" fat. This beneficial plant fat can help lower cholesterol and reduce inflammation; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas has a peanut shelling facility in Jonesboro and buying points located at Portia, Pocahontas, Marianna, and Jonesboro; and

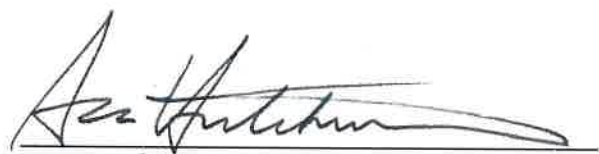
WHEREAS: Arkansas is home to a Skippy peanut butter facility, located in Little Rock;

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 March 2022, as

ARKANSAS PEANUT MONTH

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 28th day of February, in the year of our Lord 2022.




Asa Hutchinson, Governor


John Thurston, Secretary of State