TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME — GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: The enduring economic and health crisis created by the COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a lasting effect on Arkansas families and individuals in need. Despite dedicated efforts over the last decade by non-profits, government agencies, businesses, and other organizations to reduce the number of Arkansans experiencing hunger, the ramifications of the pandemic have reversed this progress; and

WHEREAS: To meet the need of Arkansans facing food insecurity, anti-hunger advocates have worked with state and federal agencies to seek waivers that have allowed pantries expanded flexibility for food distribution and out of school programs and school districts flexibility in how they serve meals to children; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas’s six Feeding America food banks distributed more than 90 million pounds of food through the charitable food network in 2021; and

WHEREAS: September has been designated Hunger Action Month, and hunger relief providers and advocates across the state are committed to ending hunger and empowering Arkansans with resources, nutrition education, and skills to increase their ability to provide nutritious food on a budget and assist communities seeking to eliminate food deserts;

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 2022 as

ARKANSAS HUNGER ACTION MONTH

across the state, and I encourage my fellow citizens to promote awareness about hunger and to unite together in the fight against hunger.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 3rd day of August, in the year of our Lord 2022.

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Attest:

John Thurston, Secretary of State