TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: In 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees; and

WHEREAS: This holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska. Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world; and

WHEREAS: Arbor Day is an annual tradition in Arkansas, celebrating the role trees play in our lives and in our future; and

WHEREAS: Trees make direct and visible contributions to our health, safety, and economy by providing clean air and water, erosion control, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, essential wood products, and beautiful landscapes; and

WHEREAS: Trees instill community pride and a commitment to conservation; they increase property values, and planting trees is a great way to leave a valuable gift for future generations to enjoy; and

WHEREAS: Tree planting efforts continue to promote the importance of trees and symbolically represent a commitment to the past, present, and future by creating a living legacy; and

WHEREAS: Healthy, diverse tree resources are vital components of any urban and rural planting efforts and particularly in re-establishment efforts following disastrous events;

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 15th, 2021, as

ARBOR DAY IN ARKANSAS

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 2nd day of February, in the year of our Lord 2021.

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

John Thurston, Secretary of State