TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME — GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: On or about February 9, 2021, a winter storm began and continues to cause freezing rain, sleet, snow, and ice with such severity to warrant executive action to alleviate hardship and suffering in the State of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: Great hardship has been wrought upon the citizens, businesses, and public and private property within the State of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: Freezing rain, sleet, snow, and ice accumulation has resulted in dangerous road conditions creating a backlog of deliveries by commercial vehicles transporting essential items of commerce to customers in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: The winter storm resulted in increased demand for sources of fuel in the State of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: The extreme weather conditions surrounding Arkansas require transporters to travel farther distances to secure sources of fuel to meet the needs of consumers in Arkansas and its neighboring states, creating an emergency situation that is limiting the delivery of gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, and liquefied petroleum; and

WHEREAS: The extreme weather conditions surrounding Arkansas also require transporters of commodities to continue deliveries of essential items like groceries, poultry, livestock, pharmacy items, and medical equipment to meet the needs of Arkansans; and

WHEREAS: 49 C.F.R. Section 390.23 authorizes a state governor to declare a regional emergency during the duration of the emergency conditions, not to exceed thirty (30) days from the date of the initial declaration of emergency, and to exempt any motor carrier or driver operating a commercial motor vehicle to provide direct assistance in providing emergency relief during an emergency pursuant to 49 C.F.R. §390 to 49 C.F.R. §399;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, acting under the authority vested in me by Act 511 of 1973, as amended, do hereby declare that a state of emergency exists in the State of Arkansas insofar as applied to commercial carriers transporting essential items of commerce during this emergency, including but not limited to groceries, pharmacy items, medical equipment, goods, commodities, fuel, poultry, and livestock to customers in Arkansas, and said state of emergency and the provisions of this proclamation shall exist and be in effect through February 24, 2021, or until such time as emergency conditions shall cease to exist, whichever is sooner.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 16th day of February in the year of our Lord 2021.

Asa Hutchinson, Governor