TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Mesothelioma is an aggressive form of cancer that occurs in the mesothelium, the thin layer of tissue that covers most internal organs; and

WHEREAS: There are several different types of mesothelioma, but the most common occurs in the tissue that surrounds the lungs. This is referred to as Pleural mesothelioma, and symptoms include chest pain, coughing, shortness of breath, unusual lumps of tissue under the skin on the chest, and unexplained weight loss; and

WHEREAS: A rare form of cancer, mesothelioma accounts for 0.3 percent of all cancer diagnosis in the United States and is typically diagnosed in later stages as it has already progressed, making it more difficult to treat; and

WHEREAS: Scientists, doctors, and researchers are still learning of ways to best diagnose and treat mesothelioma. Current treatments include surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, immunotherapy, and targeted therapy—drugs that block the growth and spread of cancerous cells; and

WHEREAS: It is believed that exposure to asbestos is the most common cause of mesothelioma, and it can take decades after exposure for the cancer to form; and

WHEREAS: Those most at risk for developing mesothelioma are those who are/have been exposed to asbestos while working, such as plumbers, construction workers, electricians, insulators, brake mechanics, and home remodelers, among others. Other risk factors include a family history of mesothelioma, radiation therapy to the chest, and/or living with someone who works with asbestos, as the fibers can be transmitted on skin and clothing;

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 26th, 2022, as

MESOTHELIOMA AWARENESS DAY

across the State, and I urge my fellow Arkansans to learn the symptoms and risk factors of this deadly disease and take necessary precautions when working in areas where asbestos may still be present.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 9th day of September, in the year of our Lord 2022.

Asa Hutchinson, Governor

John Thurston, Secretary of State