**Endangered Species Day Proclamation**

WHEREAS, the United States has a long and proud tradition of respect for the Earth’s wildlife and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, we have a responsibility to our children and future generations to be good stewards of our natural world and to leave behind a legacy of protecting endangered species and the special places they call home; and

WHEREAS, the people of \_\_\_\_ recognize that a healthy planet is an integral part of our city’s/county’s/state’s economy, society, and culture; and

WHEREAS, the strength and vitality of the human quality of life is inextricably linked with the health of all species and the places they live; and

WHEREAS, protecting species from extinction and habitat destruction benefits our own welfare by providing clean air, clean water, medicines, food pollination, buffer zones from severe weather, and economic benefits via outdoor recreation, ecotourism, and more; and

WHEREAS, since it was signed into law by President Nixon in 1973, the Endangered Species Act has been a strong, science-based conservation statute serving as the nation’s safety net for endangered wildlife and plants, designed to protect endangered species and their habitat; and

WHEREAS, according to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service data, endangered species protected by the Endangered Species Act are dramatically less likely to become extinct. The Endangered Species Act has a success rate of 99% at preventing extinction of these species; and

WHEREAS, the Endangered Species Act has put hundreds of endangered wildlife and plants on the path to recovery, including the bald eagle, the peregrine falcon, and many more; and

WHEREAS, the Endangered Species Act encourages and is compatible with programs that provide economic incentives to landowners engaged in effective endangered species and habitat conservation that can benefit both landowners and endangered species; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Mayor/County Executive/Governor of City/County/State, in upholding the Endangered Species Act so it may continue to protect our plants and animals and the special places they live do hereby proclaim May 19, 2017 as Endangered Species Day in City/County/State.

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Mayor/County Executive/Governor