STATE OF LOUISIANA
M.J. "MIKE" FOSTER, JR.
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the recurring drought and high incidence of forest and woodland fires pose a hazard to the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, many acres of forests and woodlands have been burned and damages resulting from the extreme fires are severe and pose an immediate danger to residents in the affected areas; and

WHEREAS, the situation requires immediate emergency action to minimize the effects of the extreme fires to the lives and the property of residents in these areas; and

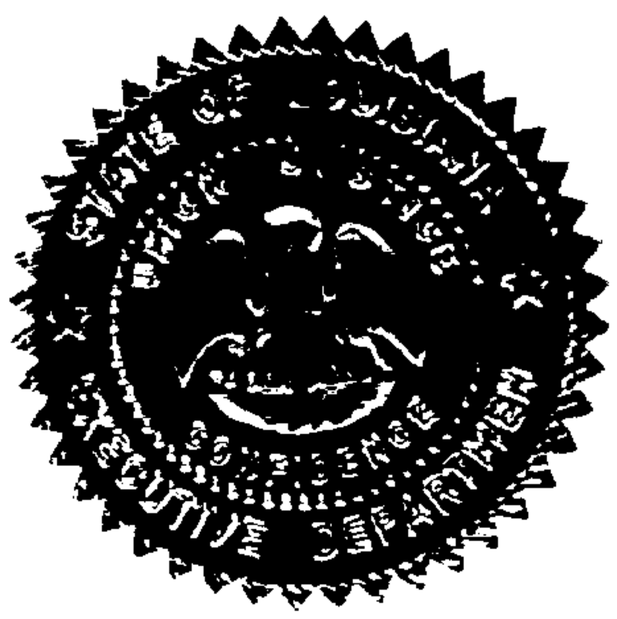
WHEREAS, by virtue of this proclamation and the powers vested in me, all persons, firms, partnerships, corporations, state and local governmental agencies or other entities are prohibited from setting fire to any forest, fields, crops, grass, woods, cultivated lands, wild lands or marshes, or to build or light a campfire, bonfire or other fire, or to burn crops, stubble, grass, debris, trash or other material, of whatever nature, in any of the parishes included in this proclamation, except as authorized in this proclamation. The setting of fires for the purpose of fire suppression by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Office of Forestry, its agents or authorized fire fighting organizations; prescribed burning of sugar cane, for purpose of harvesting the sugar cane, and other prescribed burning performed in accordance with R.S. 3:17; and the burning of agricultural fields, upon 24 hours written notice to the Office of Forestry may be conducted, unless prohibited or restricted by the Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry; and

WHEREAS, this prohibition against burning declared in this proclamation shall continue until the extreme fire danger is reduced, as determined by the Louisiana Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry, in conjunction with the State Fire Marshal. The Commissioner, in conjunction with the State Fire Marshal, may recommend additional parishes to be included in the proclamation or the removal of individual parishes from the effect of this proclamation as conditions change, without removing all parishes; and

WHEREAS, any person or entity violating this proclamation or any order, rule, or regulation promulgated pursuant to the Louisiana Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act may be criminally prosecuted. Additionally, any such person or entity may be subject to criminal prosecution under all existing and applicable laws of the state of Louisiana if the actions of such individual or entity violate any of these criminal laws; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana recognizes that the response to reduce the effects of this emergency has far exceeded the capabilities of local government.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr., Governor of the state of Louisiana, under the authority of the Louisiana Assistance and Disaster Act of 1993 (as amended), do hereby proclaim a State of Emergency to exist within the parishes of



ACADIA, ALLEN, AVOYELLES, BEAUREGARD, BIENVILLE, BOSSIER, CADDO, CALCASIEU, CALDWELL, CAMERON, CATAHOULA, CLAIBORNE, CONCORDIA, DESOTO, EAST CARROLL, EVANGELINE, FRANKLIN, GRANT, JEFFERSON DAVIS, LASALLE, LINCOLN, JACKSON, MADISON, MOREHOUSE, NATCHITOCHES, OUACHITA, POINTE COUPEE, RAPIDES, RED RIVER, RICHLAND, SABINE, ST. LANDRY, TENSAS, UNION, VERMILION, VERNON, WEBSTER, WEST CARROLL, AND WINN.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the city of Baton Rouge, on this 6th day of October, 2000.

ATTEST BY THE GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE

GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA