

Kerry M. Kriger, Ph.D.
SAVE THE FROGS!
Centreville, VA

President Barack H. Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

On behalf of all Americans and all the world's citizens who enjoy and depend on frogs, we seek your assistance in furthering amphibian conservation efforts by declaring April 28th, 2009 'Save The Frogs Day', a legally recognized day in the United States of America. We at SAVE THE FROGS! Nonprofit Organization have made this declaration and are planning activities for the 1st Annual Save The Frogs Day on April 28th, 2009. We hope that you are able to support this and that you and your staff will join us in our activities in Washington, D.C. on April 28th. On this day we encourage the appreciation and celebration of amphibians by people from all walks of life. We feel that an endorsement from our country's highest office will underscore the importance of Save The Frogs Day and encourage public participation. You can learn more about Save The Frogs Day at: www.savethefrogs.com/day

The statements below provide a clear snapshot of why amphibians, and frogs in particular, are crucial to our environment.

Save The Frogs Day

WHEREAS, amphibians are in considerable peril here in the United States, and nearly one-third of the world's 6,468 amphibian species are threatened with extinction and at least 150 species have completely disappeared since 1979, and thus amphibians are the most threatened group of animals on Earth; and

WHEREAS, amphibians are critical components to our ecosystems and because amphibians provide ecosystem services to nature and to humans including (1) cleaning waterways by eating algae during their tadpole stage; (2) serving as a vital source of food to dragonflies, birds, fish, and

reptiles, (3) consuming large quantities of ticks, mosquitoes and other pest species that serve as disease vectors that can transmit fatal illnesses to humans; and

WHEREAS, approximately 10% of Nobel prizes in physiology and medicine have resulted from investigations that used amphibians, and because when an amphibian species disappears, so does any promise it holds for improving human medicine; and

WHEREAS, amphibians face a multitude of threats including pollution, pesticides, habitat destruction, climate change, invasive species, infectious diseases (the spread of which are facilitated by human activities), and over-harvesting for the pet, food and bait trades; and

WHEREAS, we believe in the right of children to see, hear and catch amphibians in their native habitat, and amphibian conservation efforts will not be successful without an educated and informed public; and

WHEREAS, SAVE THE FROGS!, the world's leading nonprofit organization dedicated to amphibian conservation, comprising many of the world's foremost amphibian biologists and ecologists, was conceived, founded, incorporated and proudly operates in the United States of America, and because frogs comprise the vast majority of amphibian species, and are the group most recognized and appreciated by the public;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the members of the SAVE THE FROGS! Board of Directors and the members of the SAVE THE FROGS! Advisory Committee respectfully request that you declare April 28th, 2009 'Save The Frogs Day' in the great United States of America, and call these observances to the attention of all our citizens.

We wish to make it clear that the name of the day is not in honor of our organization, but is instead in reference to the necessary environmental actions that must take place to secure a healthy, natural world for both humans and wildlife. Our organization's legally recognized name includes capitalizations and an exclamation point that have been deleted from the name of the day. Thank you again for considering this proclamation. We hope that you will support this endeavor and mail such a proclamation by April 10th 2009 to the address listed below.

Sincerely,

Kerry Kriger

14-February-2009

Dr. Kerry M. Kriger

SAVE THE FROGS! Nonprofit Organization

Founder, Executive Director & Ecologist

Proud Obama Campaign Volunteer (based out of the Centreville, VA office in Fall 2008)

www.savethefrogs.com

www.savethefrogs.com/kerrykriger.html

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