

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

Whereas Globally more than 1,900 amphibian species are currently in decline and 38 species have recently become extinct; and

Whereas Of the approximately 280 native amphibian species in the United States, 38 are listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act; and

Whereas In Massachusetts, the Eastern Spadefoot Toad is listed as threatened and under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act it is illegal to kill, harass, or possess this animal; and

Whereas Amphibian populations are faced with many environmental problems including pollution, infectious diseases, habitat loss, invasive species, climate change and over-harvesting and frogs require suitable habitats in both terrestrial and aquatic environments in order to thrive; and

Whereas Because frogs have permeable skin that can make them especially susceptible to environmental disturbances, they are considered accurate indicators of environmental stress and wetland health, and the health of the frogs is thought to be indicative of the health of the biosphere as a whole; and

Whereas Frogs are an integral part of the earth's ecosystem through tadpoles keeping our waterways clean by feeding on algae, adult frogs eating large quantities of insects, including those that transmit fatal illnesses to humans, and amphibians are part of the delicate food chain by being a good source for a diverse array of predators; and

Whereas According to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, modern reptiles and amphibian have drastically reduced in size and status from former times, and today are in need of public compassion, protection and understanding to survive in an increasingly human-altered environment,

Now, Therefore, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016, to be,

## SAVE THE FROGS DAY

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this first Day of April, in the year two thousand and fsixteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-ninth.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

Handwritten signature of Charles D. Baker in blue ink.

CHARLES D. BAKER  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Handwritten signature of Karyn E. Polito in blue ink.

KARYN E. POLITO  
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Handwritten signature of William Francis Galvin in blue ink.

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts