



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

Save the Frogs Day

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 Rhode Island, the Eastern Spadefoot Toad is listed as endangered and other species of greatest concern in Rhode Island include the Dusky Salamander, Eastern Newt, Four-Toed Salamander, Marbled Salamander, Spring Salamander, Fowler's Toad, Northern Leopard Frog and the Wood Frog; 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 frogs in 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 food source for diverse array of predators; and

WHEREAS, because of their uniqueness, frogs provide benefits to the health of humans through medical research and pharmaceutical use, and ten-percent of Nobel Prizes in Physiology and Medicine have resulted from investigations that used frogs, and when a frog species disappears, so does any promise it holds for improving human health; and

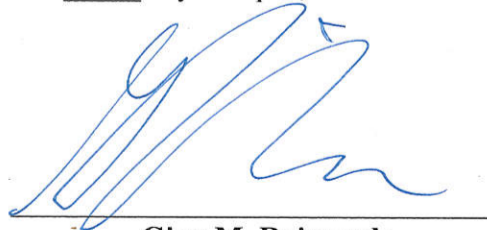
WHEREAS, Roger Williams Park Zoo of Providence is home to one of 98 FrogWatch USA chapters, and is now celebrating its ninth year as a FrogWatch USA Chapter;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gina M. Raimondo, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, do hereby proclaim April 30, 2016, as: ***Save the Frogs Day*** in the state and encourage all citizens to join me in supporting efforts to protect our frog populations for the benefit of the ecosystem.




Nellie M. Gorbea
Secretary of State

Given under my hand and the great seal
of the State of Rhode Island
and Providence Plantations,
this 27 day of April, 2016



Gina M. Raimondo
Governor