STATE OF OKLAHOMA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

Whereas, *each year, many Oklahoma citizens are victims of flood damage, yet have no flood insurance protection; and*

Whereas, *property owners and renters often become aware of flood insurance and other protection measures only after a flood has financially devastated them and/or their community; and*

Whereas, *Congress created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in 1968, to mitigate future flood damage and provide community officials with the tools needed to prevent property damage and loss of life due to flooding events; and*

Whereas, *the Oklahoma Water Resources Board is the state agency designated to coordinate the NFIP in Oklahoma in a cooperative partnership with the Oklahoma Insurance Department, Oklahoma Real Estate Commission, Oklahoma Emergency Management, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Oklahoma Emergency Managers Association, and Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association; and*

Whereas, *communities participating in the NFIP agree to regulate development in the floodplain in exchange for the offering of affordable flood insurance and enhanced protection against future flooding episodes; and*

Whereas, *382 Oklahoma communities currently participate in the NFIP, but 90 communities have yet to join the program and, as a result, have no flood damage prevention ordinances in place to protect property owners and renters from the devastating economic and social effects of flooding; and*

Whereas, *there is a need to inform Oklahomans about the importance of NFIP participation and the numerous benefits of intelligent floodplain management; and*

Whereas, *only 11 percent of all structures residing in Oklahoma's designated 100-year floodplains are currently afforded protection through flood insurance; and*

Whereas, *flood insurance policies generally require a mandatory 30-day waiting period and may be purchased from any licensed property insurance agent or broker in good standing; and*

Whereas, *there is a need to promote the timely purchase of flood insurance well in advance of Oklahoma's spring flooding period;*

Now, Therefore, I, Brad Henry, *Governor of the State of Oklahoma, do hereby proclaim the month of March 2009, as*

"Flood Insurance Month"

in the state of Oklahoma.

In Witness Whereof, *I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma to be affixed.*

Done at the Capitol, in the City of Oklahoma City, this 20th *day of* February, *in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and* nine *and of the State of Oklahoma in the* one hundred first *year.*

Brad Henry

ATTEST:

Kathy Pickel

SECRETARY OF STATE Acting Assistant

GOVERNOR