



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

GEORGIA BAT WEEK

WHEREAS: Bats provide critical ecological services that contribute substantially to the ecosystems and economy of both our state and nation; and

WHEREAS: Bats protect forests and agriculture from crop-damaging pests. Bats also provide the fundamental benefit of pollination; and

WHEREAS: Bat population losses from white-nose syndrome and other factors require attention to ensure the sustainability of our food production systems and protect both environmental and human health; and

WHEREAS: We can best restore bat populations to healthy levels by continuing state and federal initiatives, developing new public-private partnerships, increasing the quality and quantity of bat roosting and foraging habitats, and promoting citizen engagement; now

THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 24-31, 2018, as GEORGIA BAT WEEK and join in recognizing the vital role of healthy bat populations for Georgia's ecosystems.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 24th day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley
CHIEF OF STAFF