



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: More than 998 million ash trees blanket the State of Minnesota, enhancing air quality, natural landscapes, recreational destinations, wildlife habitats, tourism, manufacturing, commerce, and property/land values; and

WHEREAS: An average of 20 percent of urban streets in Minnesota are covered by ash trees, helping residents reduce heating and cooling costs, reducing air pollution and storm water runoff, and beautifying towns and cities; and

WHEREAS: Increasing public awareness and understanding of the emerald ash borer (EAB), a destructive, exotic beetle, benefits Minnesota by curtailing the artificial spread of the beetle through the movement of firewood; and

WHEREAS: Efforts undertaken in Minnesota and elsewhere, through private and non-profit organizations, universities, and government agencies, are helping protect billions of ash trees in the United States; and

WHEREAS: Employing a cooperative spirit and encouraging environmental stewardship ultimately reduces the risk to ash tree resources in Minnesota and the nation; and

WHEREAS: Spring marks the beginning of the travel and tourism season in Minnesota, the kick-off of camping season, and enhanced risk of moving EAB-infested firewood around the state; and

WHEREAS: Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week is an opportunity for the government to join forces with business, industry, environmental groups, community organizations, tourists, and citizens to take action against the spread and introduction of EAB.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the week of May 17-23, 2015, as:

EMERALD ASH BORER AWARENESS WEEK

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 12th day of May.


GOVERNOR


SECRETARY OF STATE