STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi is under a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and as a result thereof additional strain is being placed on Emergency Medical Service professionals, particularly those with the state's rural volunteer fire departments; and

WHEREAS, the increase in wildfires in recent weeks has diverted the time and resources of firefighters and Emergency Medical Service professionals from responding to the COVID-19 emergency, and the smoke resulting therefrom poses an additional risk to those Mississippians with respiratory illness; and

WHEREAS, in consideration of the health and safety of the residents and first responders and the protection of public and private property within the State, and in the public interest, all steps should be taken to protect people and property; and

WHEREAS, on April 8, 2020, I received a request from the Mississippi Forestry Commission for the imposition of a statewide burn ban, with no exceptions, effectively immediately:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tate Reeves, Governor of the State of Mississippi, pursuant to the authority vested in me under the Constitution of the State of Mississippi and Miss. Code Ann. §§ 33-15-5(g) and 33-15-1 l(b)(l) and (17), and in the public interest and for general welfare, do hereby proclaim a State of Emergency to exist across the state affected by extremely dry conditions and fire danger and, therefore, prohibit any outdoor burning in the state until such conditions improve and dangers abate as determined by the State Forester.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, on the 9TH day of April in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-fourth.

Tate Reeves

TATE REEVES
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR

Michael Watson

MICHAEL WATSON
SECRETARY OF STATE