



STATE of MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: More than 998 million ash trees exist in the forests of the State of Minnesota, enhancing air and water quality, natural landscapes, recreational destinations, wildlife habitats, property values, and local economies; and

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

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

WHEREAS: Efforts undertaken in Minnesota and elsewhere, in partnership with private and nonprofit organizations, universities, and government agencies, are helping protect the billions of ash trees in the United States; and

WHEREAS: Employing a cooperative spirit and encouraging environmental stewardship ultimately reduces the risk to the nation's ash resources; and

WHEREAS: It is the desired goal of the State of Minnesota that citizens and visitors increase their understanding and awareness of EAB and its environmental, ecological, and economic impact on Minnesota, the Great Lakes region, and the nation; and

WHEREAS: Spring marks the beginning of the travel and tourism season in Minnesota; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the week of May 20-26, 2012 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 26th day of April.


GOVERNOR



SECRETARY OF STATE