WHEREAS: Lyme disease is the most commonly reported tick-borne illness in the United States and Minnesota; and

WHEREAS: May through July is the peak feeding time for blacklegged ticks - also called deer ticks - which transmit Lyme disease bacteria in forested regions of central and southeastern Minnesota; and

WHEREAS: The number of Minnesota residents with Lyme disease has steadily increased, and the disease has spread through all regions of the state; and

WHEREAS: Simple tick-bite prevention measures, such as using tick repellents and conducting frequent tick checks, may reduce the chance of contracting Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases; and

WHEREAS: Early recognition and treatment of Lyme disease can prevent the long-term health problems associated with the disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the month of May, 2012:

LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

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 30th day of April.

[Signature]
GOVERNOR

[Signature]
SECRETARY OF STATE