State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

Endangered Species Day

WHEREAS, a healthy environment is an integral part of Rhode Island's economy, society and culture; and

WHEREAS, for more than thirty years, the Endangered Species Act has served as the nation's safety net for wildlife, saving hundreds of plants and animals from extinction, putting hundreds more on the path to recovery, and safeguarding the habitats on which they all depend; and

WHEREAS, saving a species requires a combination of sound research, careful coordination and intensive management of conservation efforts, along with increased public awareness and education; and

WHEREAS, education and increasing public awareness are the first steps in effectively informing the public about endangered species and species restoration efforts; and

WHEREAS, species extinction and habitat destruction are a serious threat to our own welfare, as nature is the source for most of our commonly-prescribed medicines, and the loss of species could mean the loss of life-saving drugs; and

WHEREAS, protecting Rhode Island's and America's wildlife and plants today is the legacy we leave to our children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, we have the responsibility of ensuring that future generations will not only have use of the best available science, but will also be able to delight in experiencing the rich variety of native species that have helped to define our Ocean State; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby proclaim May 20, 2011 Endangered Species Day in Rhode Island and urge the state's citizens to recognize the importance of this day.

Given under my hand and the great seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, this 19th day of May, 2011

Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor

A. Ralph Mollis
Secretary of State