

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

WHEREAS, bats provide important ecological services that contribute substantially to the economy of the United States by protecting American forests and agriculture from crop-damaging insect pests and by providing the fundamental benefit of pollination; and

WHEREAS, South Carolina is home to fourteen bat species that save our state's agricultural industry over \$115 million each year in pest suppression services and help reduce the spread of dangerous mosquito-borne viruses; and

WHEREAS, recent bat population losses from white-nose syndrome and other factors require attention to ensure the sustainability of our food production systems and protect environmental and human health; and

WHEREAS, it is critically important to continue federal and state efforts, including developing new public-private partnerships and increasing citizen engagement, to promote the health of bat populations; increase the quality and quantity of bat roosting and foraging habitat; and help restore bat populations to healthy levels.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 24 - 31, 2022, as

SOUTH CAROLINA BAT WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to learn more about the vital significance of protecting the health of bat populations and celebrate their contributions to healthy ecosystems, our food supply, and human health.



HENRY MCMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA