WHEREAS, Alaska’s abundant resources and vast lands provide both great opportunity and quality of life for all Alaskans; and

WHEREAS, since 1966, Alaska has recognized Arbor Day as a day to appreciate trees as one of Alaska’s greatest resources, and to highlight the importance of sustainable management of trees and forests to ensure the bright future of our state; and

WHEREAS, trees benefit our communities in many ways: they can reduce the erosion of topsoil by wind and water, beautify the landscapes of our homes, schools, and towns, reduce our heating and cooling costs, moderate temperature, clean the air, and provide habitat for Alaska’s many wildlife species; and

WHEREAS, trees are a renewable resource, giving us paper, wood for construction, fuel for our fires, and countless other wood products; and

WHEREAS, healthy and properly managed trees and forests can also provide sustainable economic benefits to Alaskans through the timber industry, as well as numerous environmental benefits.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Sean Parnell, Governor of the State of Alaska, do hereby proclaim May 19, 2014 as:

Arbor Day

in Alaska, and encourage all Alaskans to recognize the importance of trees and forests in Alaska, and to participate in Arbor Day events taking place in communities across the state.

Dated: May 12, 2014