

# STATE OF ALASKA



## *Executive Proclamation* by

*Governor Bill Walker*

WHEREAS, this is the fiftieth year that Alaskans have celebrated Arbor Day to increase public awareness of the importance of trees and forests to the everyday life of Alaskans; and

WHEREAS, Arbor Day provides an opportunity to encourage Alaskans to plant and care for trees in their communities. Trees add beauty to the landscape, absorb air pollutants, reduce erosion of valuable topsoil, moderate temperatures, provide habitat for wildlife, and mitigate storm water runoff; and

WHEREAS, healthy and properly managed trees and forests provide natural ecosystems, sustainable economic benefits through the timber industry, and social benefits as trees add to the natural environment that improves the quality of life for Alaskans; and

WHEREAS, trees are a renewable resource, giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires, and jobs for our people; and

WHEREAS, Arbor Day is recognized in every state in the nation and in countries around the world; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry is responsible for encouraging proper management of our urban and rural forests, managing Alaska's 2.6 million acres of State forest land for multiple objectives and protecting against wildfire, insects and diseases, providing technical assistance to forestland owners and managers, and promoting the wise stewardship of forest lands.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Walker, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA, do hereby proclaim  
May 16, 2016 as:

### *Arbor Day*

in Alaska, and encourage all Alaskans to join in this 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration by planting trees and providing ongoing care of community trees and forests, and promoting the well-being of this and future generations of Alaskans.

Dated: April 27, 2016



*Bill Walker*

*Bill Walker, Governor  
who has also authorized the  
seal of the State of Alaska to  
be affixed to this proclamation.*