

WHEREAS, trees are a vital and renewable resource, giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires, and countless other products that support South Carolina's manufacturing industry; and

WHEREAS, trees help reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, clean the air, produce life-giving oxygen, beautify our communities, and provide habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Arbor Day was first observed in 1872 to recognize the importance of trees to our quality of life and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 celebration of Arbor Week provides an opportunity to celebrate trees as an essential natural resource and to work together to safeguard our woodlands and community forests.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim November 29 - December 5, 2009, as

ARBOR WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to plant and care for trees in celebration of their important role in our ecosystem.