

Proclamation

by Governor Earl Ray Tomblin

- Whereas,** native wildlife populations are an integral part of West Virginia's natural environment and serve as an indicator for the overall health of West Virginia's statewide ecosystems; and
- Whereas,** each year in the United States more than 200 people are killed in wildlife-vehicle collisions, 26,000 are injured and more than 1.5 million animals are hit on roads; and
- Whereas,** West Virginia ranks first on State Farm Insurance's top ten list of deer-vehicle collision states, with the likelihood of a specific vehicle striking a deer in West Virginia this year being 1 in 41; and
- Whereas,** the average cost per accident is around \$3,100 adding up to more than \$1 billion per year in property damage; and
- Whereas** when additional factors are considered including law enforcement, emergency services, road maintenance crews and wildlife management personnel, the estimated total annual cost to society associated with wildlife-vehicle collisions is \$8.4 billion; and
- Whereas,** the success of wildlife movement and survival in West Virginia remains dependent upon continued public education and increased understanding of the essential role migration corridors play in wildlife movement; and
- Whereas,** the goal of *Watch Out for Wildlife Awareness Week* is to provide information about wildlife-vehicle collisions and how to prevent them.
- Now, Therefore,** Be it Resolved that I, Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *September 18-23, 2011*, as:

Watch Out for Wildlife Awareness Week

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Fourteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Eleven, and in the One Hundred Forty-Ninth year of the State.



Earl Ray Tomblin
Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

By the Governor:
Natalie E. Tennant
Natalie E. Tennant
Secretary of State