WHEREAS, The safe use of hazardous materials is essential to citizens, businesses, industry and local governments to maintain economic stability and the public health; and

WHEREAS, It is essential for local governments and the local emergency planning committees (LEPCs) to work together to keep their communities safe by educating the public; and

WHEREAS, Citizens need to know that local governments, businesses, emergency responders and emergency planners are working together to ensure that our communities are as prepared as possible for both accidental and deliberate releases of hazardous materials; and

WHEREAS, Knowledge of chemical hazards, employee safety training, proper use and storage of hazardous materials, and proper emergency response actions can help minimize unnecessary incidents and exposure to hazardous materials; and

WHEREAS, Hazardous materials are manufactured, stored, used, or transported in every community of our state; and

WHEREAS, Accidents involving chemicals and other hazardous materials do occur; and

WHEREAS, The Iowa Emergency Response Commission (IERC), created by statute in 1989, is responsible for implementation of the Federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA); and

WHEREAS, EPCRA is designed to help communities prepare for and respond to emergencies involving hazardous substances and every community must be a part of a comprehensive plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Terry E. Branstad, Governor of the State of Iowa, do hereby proclaim the week of January 17-23, 2016, as

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AWARENESS WEEK

IN IOWA, AND URGE ALL IOWANS TO LEARN ABOUT THE DANGERS INVOLVED IN HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RELEASES AND ACCIDENTS, AND WHAT ACTIONS THEY SHOULD TAKE TO PREVENT INJURY TO THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES MOINES THIS 23RD DAY OF JANUARY IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND SIXTEEN.

TERRY E. BRANSTAD
GOVERNOR OF IOWA

ATTEST: Paul D. Pate
SECRETARY OF STATE