

WHEREAS, water treatment, water distribution, wastewater collection, and wastewater treatment operators are vital professionals to Maine, protecting public health by ensuring that our drinking water is safe and pure; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of Maine rely on these professionals to protect our lakes, rivers, ponds, streams, and expansive coastline by removing pollutants from our wastewater; and

WHEREAS, certified operators are essential to safely and correctly operating the highly technical facilities and maintain the water and wastewater infrastructure that supports our communities and readies them for future growth; and

WHEREAS, clean water and a pristine environment are cornerstones of Maine's heritage, cultural identity, and outdoor economy; and

WHEREAS, the State of Maine has been blessed with an abundance of clean, safe, and accessible water, a resource precious to all Mainers and a living legacy to be handed on to our children and grandchildren; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the great State of Maine, do hereby proclaim March 22, 2021, as

Professional Water and Wastewater Operator Appreciation Day

throughout the State of Maine, and I urge all citizens to recognize these professionals and the vital role that they play in safeguarding our health and protecting our environment.



Shenna Bellows Secretary of State In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this eighteenth day of March Two Thousand Twenty-One

> Janet T. Mills Governor