



WHEREAS, approximately 33 million small businesses operate within the United States, including 26 million that are individually operated without any employees; and

WHEREAS, the state of Maine has more than 149,000 small businesses, nearly 3,800 of which are minority-owned; and

WHEREAS, small businesses represent ninety-nine percent of all businesses in Maine, employing approximately fifty-seven percent of the state's workforce; and

WHEREAS, small businesses create the bulk of new products and technologies, from developing new sustainable alternative energy sources to modernizing our heritage industries, supporting local economies, employing local people, and contributing to the vibrancy of our communities; and

WHEREAS, over the past year, small businesses have adapted to meet the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, and their employees have taken extensive safety measures to protect Maine people and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, throughout the pandemic, small businesses have stepped up to meet the needs of Maine people by manufacturing such essentials as face masks and hand sanitizer; and

WHEREAS, here in Maine, we have achieved the best rate of economic recovery in New England, powered by small businesses and startups that have increased across all sectors; and

WHEREAS, we will continue to rely on and celebrate the outsized contributions of Maine's small businesses as key to Maine's community and economic fabric into the future;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the great State of Maine, do hereby proclaim the week of May 2nd through May 8th, 2021, as

Small Business Week

throughout the State of Maine and I urge all citizens to join me in recognizing the contributions of small businesses to our economy and communities and the hard work and sacrifices Maine businesses made during this challenging past year.



Shenna Bellows

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
third day of May Two Thousand Twenty-One

Janet T. Mills
Governor