State of Louisiana

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION NUMBER 16 JBE 2020

STATE OF EMERGENCY – SEVERE WEATHER, EXCESSIVE RAINFALL, AND FLOODING

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721, *et seq.*, confers upon the Governor of the State of Louisiana emergency powers to deal with emergencies and disasters, including those caused by fire, flood, earthquake or other natural or manmade causes, in order to ensure that preparations of this state will be adequate to deal with such emergencies or disasters and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the State of Louisiana;

WHEREAS, due to severe weather and excessive rainfall starting on February 10, 2020, river gauges throughout Louisiana have met or are expected to meet the flood stages;

WHEREAS, excessive rainfall is predicted later in this week that may further exacerbate flash flooding and river flooding, and;

WHEREAS, The parishes of Ouachita and West Carroll have declared states of emergency due to flooding, and many more parishes are expected to need to take protective measures to help mitigate potential flooding, and;

WHEREAS, due to the aforesaid conditions, the threat to the lives and property of the citizens of the State is imminent.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JOHN BEL EDWARDS, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

SECTION 1: Pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721, *et seq.*, a state of emergency is hereby declared to exist statewide as a result of severe thunderstorms that imminently threaten the lives and property of the citizens of the State.

SECTION 2: The Director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) is hereby authorized to undertake any activity authorized by law which he deems appropriate in response to this declaration.

SECTION 3: Pursuant to La. R.S. 29:732, during a declared state of emergency, the prices charged or value received for goods and services sold within the designated emergency area may not exceed the prices ordinarily charged for comparable goods and services in the same market area at or immediately before the time of the state of emergency, unless the price by the seller is attributable to fluctuations in applicable commodity markets, fluctuations in applicable regional or national market trends, or to reasonable expenses and charges and attendant business risk incurred in procuring or selling the goods or services during the state of emergency.

SECTION 4: All departments, commissions, boards, agencies and officers of the State, or any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to cooperate in actions the State may take in response to the effects of this severe weather event.

SECTION 5: This state of emergency extends from Tuesday, February 11, 2020 to Wednesday, March 11, 2020, unless terminated sooner.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 10th day of February, 2020.

GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

SECRETARY OF STATE