WHEREAS, America's system of public lands includes parks, unique landscapes, forests, wildlife refuges, historic trails, natural areas and wetlands, marine centers, community gardens and other irreplaceable national resources; and

WHEREAS, public lands provide locally accessible natural and cultural resources for environmental learning, wildlife appreciation and recreation; and

WHEREAS, public lands promote civic ideals that include shared stewardship and recognition of public ownership; and

WHEREAS, shared stewardship requires the goodwill, cooperation and active support of citizens, community, local and state officials, business leaders, youth and adults; and

WHEREAS, state and local residents, land managers and community leaders improve the condition of public lands for urban residents and work to break down the barriers that prevent Americans from actively utilizing their public lands and

WHEREAS, a collaboration among state and local residents, land managers and community leaders improves the condition of public lands for urban residents and

NOW, Therefore, I, Jack A. Markell, Governor, do hereby declare September 24th, 2016, as the State of Delaware's National Public Lands Day.

Jack A. Markell
Governor

16-0675 Statement of the Governor