

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20250

NATIONAL AMPHIBIAN WEEK
May 7-13, 2023

By the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS the United States Department of Agriculture (the Department), and its Agencies, cognizant of the responsibilities entrusted to it, is proud of our legacy of working with landowners, agricultural producers, and other land stewards to provide a sustainable supply of food and fiber for the Nation and the world; and to conserve the natural resources found on the farm, ranch, and forest lands of this country; and

WHEREAS amphibians are found across America in urban, rural, and wild spaces, and connect people to nature; promote a sense of discovery of the natural world; engage future generations in stewardship activities; provide economic and social benefits, ecosystem services, and ecosystem resilience; and

WHEREAS the plight of amphibians, one of the most threatened taxonomic groups in the world, with more than 40 percent of species considered threatened by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, has become symbolic of biodiversity loss and are key indicators of water quality and ecosystem health; and

WHEREAS the Department participates in collaborative conservation partnerships and in actions addressing the ongoing global amphibian crisis, collecting scientific and other information about these resources by following a One Health approach; and honoring its trust responsibilities and special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities in protecting much of the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage;

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of the importance of amphibians to families and healthy ecosystems on public, private, and Tribal lands, and those lands' value to the Nation's economy, I, Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture, do hereby proclaim May 7-13, 2023, as National Amphibian Week and call upon the people of the United States to join me in celebrating the importance of amphibians with appropriate observances and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 27 day of April 2023, the two hundred forty-seventh year of the Independence of the United States of America.

THOMAS J. VILSACK
Secretary of Agriculture