State of Louisiana

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION NUMBER 47 JBE 2019

STATE OF EMERGENCY – SEVERE WEATHER AND TORNADOS

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 of property of the people of the State of Louisiana;

WHEREAS, when the Governor determines that a disaster or emergency has occurred, or the threat thereof is imminent, La. R.S. 29:724(B) (1) empowers the Governor to declare a state of emergency by executive order or proclamation, or both;

WHEREAS, on October 31, 2018, and though the morning of November 1, 2018, many parishes throughout the State incurred damages after a violent storm system moved through the State bringing strong winds that caused severe damage, including dozens of damaged homes and businesses and thousands left without power;

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service has confirmed 18 tornadoes impacted the State and several of these were estimated to reach an EF-2 rating;

WHEREAS, Concordia, LaSalle, Rapides, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington Parishes have declared or are in the process of declaring states of emergency in order to assist residents in areas that have been impacted by the severe weather;

WHEREAS, the parishes of Allen, Avoyelles, Calcasieu, Catahoula, Grant, and Natchitoches also received damages; and

WHEREAS, a declaration of a state of emergency is necessary to assist residents in areas that may have been impacted by the severe weather.

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 the severe winds and thunderstorms has had an impact on 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 is hereby authorized to undertake any activity authorized by law which he deems appropriate in response to this declaration.

SECTION 3: 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 on the named parishes.

SECTION 4: This order is effective upon signature and shall remain in effect from Sunday, March 31, 2019 until Monday, April 29, 2019, 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 29th day of March, 2019.

GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

SECRETARY OF STATE