State of Iowa

Executive Department

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, IOWA IS A RECOGNIZED LEADER IN THE PRODUCTION OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES, PRODUCING APPROXIMATELY ONE-TENTH OF THE NATION'S FOOD SUPPLY; AND

WHEREAS, IOWA FARMERS SELL OVER $10 BILLION WORTH OF CROPS AND LIVESTOCK ANNUALLY, AND LEAD THE NATION IN ALL CORN, SOYBEAN, AND HOG MARKETINGS, AND COME IN THIRD IN TOTAL LIVESTOCK SALES; AND

WHEREAS, THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC) ESTIMATES THAT 76 MILLION PERSONS ANNUALLY BECOME ILL DUE TO A FOODBORNE ILLNESS, AND AN ESTIMATED 5,000 DEATHS ARE DIRECTLY LINKED TO FOODBORNE PATHOGENS; AND

WHEREAS, SINCE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, THE NATION'S ATTENTION HAS BEEN FOCUSED ON FOOD SECURITY, AND IT IS ESSENTIAL TO HAVE FOOD SAFETY PROGRAMS THAT ARE BUILT UPON SOUND SCIENCE AND ADDRESS FOOD SECURITY; AND

WHEREAS, FOOD SAFETY REQUIRES THAT ALL FOOD SERVICE WORKERS BE AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUED TRAINING AND EDUCATION IN WAYS TO PREVENT THE TRANSMISSION OF FOODBORNE ILLNESSES AND SAFEGUARD THE NATION'S FOOD SUPPLY; AND

WHEREAS, THE PUBLIC, TOO, MUST BE EDUCATED TO HANDLE AND PREPARE FOOD PROPERLY AT HOME, WHERE FOOD SAFETY IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT - WHETHER COOKING FROM SCRATCH OR SERVING TAKE-OUT MEALS AND RESTAURANT LEFTOVERS; AND

WHEREAS, THE RISK OF FOODBORNE ILLNESS IS OF INCREASING CONCERN DUE TO CHANGES IN THE GLOBAL MARKET, THE AGING OF OUR POPULATION, INCREASING NUMBERS OF IMMUNOCOMPROMISED AND IMMUNOSUPPRESSED INDIVIDUALS, AND CHANGES IN FOOD PRODUCTION PRACTICES; AND

WHEREAS, ENSURING SAFE FOOD IS AN IMPORTANT PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITY FOR IOWA AND OUR NATION; AND

WHEREAS, ON BEHALF OF THE CITIZENS OF IOWA, I JOIN WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE IOWA FOOD SAFETY TASK FORCE IN RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF RESTAURANT AND FOODSERVICE OPERATIONS, HOSPITALITY ASSOCIATIONS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, AND CONSUMER ORGANIZATIONS IN ENSURING THAT ALL FOOD PRODUCTS PROVIDED TO THE CONSUMER ARE SAFE AND WHOLESOME:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF IOWA, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2009, AS

FOOD SAFETY EDUCATION MONTH

IN IOWA, A TIME TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFE FOOD HANDLING AND PREPARATION AND TO RECOGNIZE THE MANY DEDICATED FOOD SERVICE WORKERS AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES WHO DILIGENTLY PROTECT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF IOWA CONSUMERS.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SUBSCRIBED MY NAME AND CAUSED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF IOWA TO BE AFFIXED. DONE AT DES MOINES THIS 31ST DAY OF AUGUST IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND NINE.

Chet Culver

CHESTER J. CULVER
GOVERNOR OF IOWA

ATTEST:

Michael A. Mauro

MICHAEL A. MAURO
SECRETARY OF STATE