



WHEREAS, America's strongest economic growth in almost 40 years has been driven by the resilience of our small businesses who, despite a world-wide pandemic, continue to pioneer innovative solutions to our country's greatest challenges and create opportunities for families and workers; and

WHEREAS, from the local shops that anchor Main Street to the startups that keep the United States on the cutting edge to the small manufacturers driving our competitiveness on the global stage, small businesses are the backbone of our economy and the cornerstones of our nation's promise; and

WHEREAS, approximately 32.5 million small businesses operate within the United States, creating nearly two out of three jobs in our economy; and

WHEREAS, the state of Maine has more than 150,000 small businesses, nearly 4,100 of which are minority-owned; and

WHEREAS, small businesses represent ninety-nine percent of all businesses in Maine, employing approximately fifty-seven percent of the state's workforce; and

WHEREAS, small businesses create the bulk of new products and technologies, from developing new sustainable alternative energy sources to modernizing our heritage industries, supporting local economies, employing local people, and contributing to the vibrancy of our communities; and

WHEREAS, we continue to rely on and celebrate the outsized contributions of Maine's small businesses and entrepreneurs as key to Maine's community and economic fabric into the future;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the great State of Maine, do hereby proclaim the week of May 1st through May 7th, 2022, as

Small Business Week

throughout the State of Maine and I urge all citizens to join me in recognizing the contributions of small businesses and their employees to our growing economy and thriving communities.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the
Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed
GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this
third day of May Two Thousand Twenty-Two

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State

