

THURSTON COUNTY

Proclamation

Earth Day

WHEREAS, April 22, 2018, the 48th anniversary of the first Earth Day, provides an opportunity to increase community awareness and appreciation of the Earth's natural environment; and

WHEREAS, Earth Day is an annual reminder of the constant need for environmental activism, stewardship commitments, and sustainability efforts; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme "End Plastic Pollution" is focused on Ending Plastic Pollution by Earth Day 2020, the 50th anniversary of Earth Day; and

WHEREAS, plastic waste can be found everywhere, land or sea, even in the most remote places on the planet, affecting both humans and animals.

WHEREAS, humankind is currently facing tremendous global challenges, among them the need to manage an increased amount of waste to which plastics will contribute roughly 12,000 million metric tons by 2050; and

WHEREAS, all people of this Earth, from all walks of life, have a right to a healthy environment and plastic pollution has been associated with several health issues affecting the general population; and

WHEREAS, children, the youth, and the most vulnerable are disproportionately affected by plastic pollution; and

WHEREAS, it is more important than ever to cooperate to find solutions for the plastic waste that is concentrating in several enormous patches in the ocean and that threatens the human food chain; and

WHEREAS, Thurston County strives to provide regional leadership to enhance environmental sustainability for its citizens and for our future generations; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to involve the community in the design and implementation of solutions for pressing environmental issues such as plastic pollution; and

WHEREAS, Eli Sterling continues to organize Thurston County's Procession of the Species, an event founded in 1995 to commemorate Earth Day and to support Congressional renewal of the Endangered Species Act. A grand example of sustainability, the Procession emphasizes the use of recycled, natural, and donated materials in the construction of the artistic treasures displayed in the parade; and

WHEREAS, more than four decades after the first Earth Day, millions of people have answered the call to protect the environment. Today, let us do so again by joining together, raising our voices, and standing up for our planet and our future.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** the Board of Thurston County Commissioners hereby proclaims April 22, 2018 EARTH DAY in Thurston County and encourages all citizens to be a part of this important movement and help write many more victories and successes into our history.*

Adopted this 17th day of April, 2018

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DRAFT