State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

Whereas, Rhode Island ranks second in the nation in high incidence of Lyme disease; and

Whereas, there were 736 reported cases of Lyme disease in Rhode Island in 2003 and 245 reported cases from Washington County, which corresponds to an incidence rate of 198 cases per one hundred thousand individuals; and

Whereas, this incidence rate of reported cases is over twenty-five times the national average, and represents a spectacular concentration of infected individuals especially when compared to infection rates of West Nile virus or Eastern Equine Encephalitis; and

Whereas, recent tick census data shows that overall abundance of ticks in Washington County is among the highest in Rhode Island, and that according to statistics reported by scientists at the University of Rhode Island there is a directly proportional relationship between number of ticks and number of Lyme disease cases in a given area; and

Whereas, Lyme disease costs society nearly one billion dollars annually. With Rhode Island accounting for approximately three to eleven per cent of all cases in the United States, the total cost associated with Lyme disease for Rhode Island taxpayers is potentially between thirty and one hundred and ten million dollars annually;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD L. CARCIERI, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM,

June 3, 2006

as

Tick Control Awareness Day

in the State of Rhode Island and encourage all of its citizens to join in recognizing the importance of this day.

In recognition whereof, I have hereby set my hand and caused the Seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations to be hereunto affixed this 3rd day of June 2006.

Donald L. Carcieri
Governor

Matthew A. Brown
Secretary of State