



WHEREAS, the State of Illinois and the Illinois Commerce Commission are concerned with the safety of the people in our state as well as the integrity of our underground utility infrastructure; and,

WHEREAS, each year, the nation's underground utility infrastructure is jeopardized by unintentional damage from those who fail to have underground utility lines located prior to digging; and,

WHEREAS, every eight minutes an underground utility line is damaged, often causing unintended consequences such as service interruptions, damage to the environment, and personal injury or even death; and,

WHEREAS, a call to the Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators, Inc. (JULIE), provides excavators and underground utility owners with a one-stop message-handling and delivery service committed to protecting our underground pipelines, cables, and wiring, as well as the health and safety of those working or living near underground utilities; and,

WHEREAS, JULIE, Inc., serves the entire state outside of the city limits of Chicago, has nearly 100 employees, represents 1,950 members, and receives 1.5 million locate calls annually; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois law requires all homeowners and contractors to call the statewide JULIE number, 811, prior to digging in order to have underground utility lines marked, regardless of whether they are planting a sapling or excavating a major construction project; and,

WHEREAS, through education efforts on safe digging practices, excavators and homeowners may save time and money and keep our state safe by calling 811; and,

WHEREAS, Illinois is a leader in the campaign to spread awareness of the one-call number, 811;

*THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim April 2017 as **SAFE DIGGING MONTH** in Illinois, and encourage every excavator and homeowner to call 811 before digging.*

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



*Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this TWENTY-FIRST day of MARCH, in
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
SEVENTEEN, and of the State of Illinois,
one hundred and NINETY-NINTH.*

Deese White

SECRETARY OF STATE

Bruce Rauner

GOVERNOR