



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The beaches, shores and waters of the Texas Gulf Coast sustain an abundance of valuable fish and wildlife and offer recreational, aesthetic and economic benefits to all Texans and attract many visitors to our state, and,

WHEREAS, All Texas Rivers empty into the Gulf of Mexico; and trash and other kinds of pollution travels down rivers and ends up in the Gulf of Mexico and on Texas Beaches; and,

WHEREAS, The beaches of Texas are a state treasure to be protected and enjoyed by all Texans, from the West Texas plains to the East Texas forests; and,

WHEREAS, Waterborne debris and beach litter injure and kill countless marine animals and coastal birds; threaten the health and safety of beach users and boaters; and work to the detriment of the coastal tourist industry which produces over \$7 billion each year from tourism and recreation; and

WHEREAS, Ten years ago 2,800 volunteers traveled to rain-soaked Texas beaches on a stormy Saturday morning to participate in a beach cleanup in which they collected 124 tons of trash; and

WHEREAS, In response to the need demonstrated by that first cleanup, Texas Land Commissioner Garry Mauro began the Texas Adopt-A-Beach Program that has brought international attention to the problem of ocean dumping and served as a model for similar programs in 40 other U.S. states and territories and 70 other countries; and

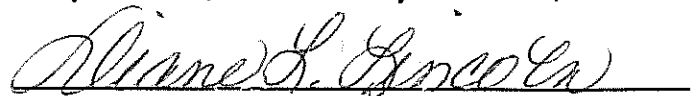
WHEREAS, The data collected on the types of trash found during these semi-annual cleanups demonstrated that much of the trash on Texas beaches was from offshore sources such as shipping, offshore oil and seismic operations, and commercial and recreational fishing, and

WHEREAS, That information was used to persuade the U.S. Senate to ratify the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) MARPOL Annex V Treaty banning the dumping of plastics in the oceans of the world and later used to convince the IMO to grant the Gulf "special area" designation which declares the Gulf of Mexico off limits to dumping of any kind other than finely ground food scraps; and,

WHEREAS, The continuing success of the Texas Adopt-A-Beach Program is made possible through the support of thousands of volunteers from all over Texas who are the backbone of the program; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT KNOWN, That the Town of Woodloch does hereby congratulate the Texas Adopt-A-Beach Program on its 10th Anniversary and expresses its appreciation for its work in protecting and enhancing Texas' open beaches for all Texans.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Town of Woodloch City Council, this 11th day of March, 1996.


Diane L. Lincoln, Mayor
Town of Woodloch

ATTEST:


Patty Green, City Secretary