IDAHO FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: Idaho's forests are an essential part of the state's history, culture, environment and economy; and

WHEREAS: the Idaho forest products industry plays an essential role as a fundamental industry to the state of Idaho providing for the production of wood and paper products from Idaho forests; and

WHEREAS: Idaho's forest sector is one of Idaho's leading trade sectors, contributing over $2 billion to the state's gross state product, providing 30,000 jobs, generating $3.77 billion in sales and generating $25 million in tax revenue, and

WHEREAS: Sustainable forest management under the Idaho Forest Practices Act provides countless benefits, including clean air and water, fish and wildlife habitat, recreation, scenic beauty, local renewable energy, forest products used by Idahoans every day, and employment and tax revenue for local communities, counties and the State of Idaho; and

WHEREAS: Wood is widely recognized as a renewable, recyclable, durable, versatile, and energy efficient green building material; and

WHEREAS: Products from sustainably managed forests play a critical role in combating climate change due to the natural process of photosynthesis where trees absorb carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, release oxygen into the atmosphere and capture carbon, which is stored in wood products for the life of the product.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim the 7-day period beginning on the third Sunday of October in each year as Idaho Forest Products Industry Week. I urge all people, school districts, community colleges, cities and counties, public and private institutions of higher education, state and local agencies, nonprofit and community-based organizations, and private businesses and corporations to observe Idaho Forest Products Industry Week during October 21 – 27 2018 by issuing proclamations and honoring the forest products industry with appropriate ceremonies and activities.