STATE OF ARKANSAS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

EO 08-09

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

EXECUTIVE ORDER AUTHORIZING EMERGENCY PAID LEAVE FOR CERTAIN STATE EMPLOYEES WHOSE PRINCIPAL RESIDENCES ARE OR WERE LOCATED IN COUNTIES DECLARED AS DISASTER AREAS BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS: Unfortunately, since January 1, 2008, many Arkansans have endured the effects of severe weather conditions, including tornadoes, damaging high winds, heavy rains and flooding; and

WHEREAS: Employees of the State of Arkansas have been and may continue to be adversely affected by these destructive weather conditions and may be in dire need of emergency leave time to respond to the resulting damage and injuries caused by such weather conditions; and

WHEREAS: It would be in the best interest of the State of Arkansas, and would promote the most efficient operation of state government, to allow these state employees to take emergency paid leave to address the losses they have incurred in the wake of such weather conditions;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE BEEBE, Governor of the State of Arkansas, acting under the authority vested in me, do hereby order and commission the following:

1. This Executive Order is issued pursuant to Article VI, Section 2 of the Arkansas Constitution, and Ark. Code Ann. § 12-75-114(a), (b), and (e).

2. Beginning January 1, 2008, and hereafter, unless and until this Executive Order is modified or repealed, all Executive Branch agency directors are authorized to grant emergency paid leave, not to exceed forty (40) hours, to those agency employees who suffer the loss of, or substantial damage to, their principal place of residence due to the tornadoes, high winds, rain, flooding, or other severe weather conditions. Such emergency leave, if granted at the discretion of the agency director, shall be limited to those agency employees whose principal place of residence is located in a County that has been declared to be a disaster area by the Governor as a result of the aforementioned weather conditions.

3. All agency supervisors or directors, whose employees use this emergency paid leave, shall maintain records of the amount of emergency paid leave claimed, for use by the Department of Finance and Administration.

4. Nothing in this Executive Order shall prohibit or prevent the additional use of earned leave time by a state employee, over and above the amount of emergency paid leave granted herein.

5. The provisions of this Executive Order shall not apply to the members of the legislature, or to any employees of, or positions in, the legislative branch of Arkansas state government; the Justices of the Supreme Court, Judges of the Court of Appeals, Judges of the Circuit, Chancery, or Circuit/Chancery Courts, Judges of the inferior courts, or to any employee of, or position in, the judicial branch of Arkansas state government; officers, employees, and academic personnel of state institutions of higher education; elected officers of the State and any employee of the offices of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Auditor, Land Commissioner, State Treasurer; and members of the staff of multi-member boards, commissions, or committees, whether the members thereof are elected or appointed by the Governor or other authority, serve ex-officio, or are otherwise chosen; employees of the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission; provided, however, that any agency, department, board, commission, or office of state government exempted as herein above-stated may voluntarily agree to be covered by the provisions of this Executive Order.

6. If any part of this Executive Order is found to be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder shall remain in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed at the Capitol in Little Rock on the 5th day of May, in the Year of our Lord 2008.

MIKE BEEBE, GOVERNOR

CHARLIE DANIELS, SECRETARY OF STATE