WHEREAS, groundwater is a vital natural resource that is essential to the health and well-being of humanity and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the National Ground Water Association (www.NGWA.org) has designated one week in the month of March each year, to further water knowledge and protection through education and outreach; and

WHEREAS, the NGWA and individual states promote the scheduling of yearly water well maintenance/checkup so that groundwater wells provide quality drinking water for its users; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana is privileged to enjoy abundant amounts of clean, fresh, renewable groundwater, with nearly half of its citizens drawing their daily drinking water from groundwater supplies; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana’s farmers and ranchers use groundwater to irrigate their fields of cotton, rice, sugar cane, corn, sweet potatoes, soybeans, sorghum, berries and other crops, and to raise livestock and poultry; and

WHEREAS, business and industry in Louisiana use groundwater for power generation, production processes, and other applications that contribute to the state’s overall economic development; and

WHEREAS, the protection, management, and conservation of this renewable resource for generations to come is of the utmost importance to every Louisiana citizen; and

WHEREAS, the state Office of Conservation, along with numerous community organizations, as well as state and federal agencies, do hereby acknowledge the importance for continuing public awareness and good stewardship of this natural resource.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bobby Jindal, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim March 9-15, 2014, as

GROUNDWATER AWARENESS WEEK
in the State of Louisiana.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this the 9th day of March, 2014.

[Signature]
Governor of Louisiana

[Signature]
Secretary of State