STATE OF MONTANA OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR EXECUTIVE ORDER No. 2-2019

EXECUTIVE ORDER DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY TO EXIST IN ANACONDA DEER LODGE COUNTY WITHIN THE STATE OF MONTANA

WHEREAS, beginning on February 24, 2019, extreme cold and blizzard conditions have impacted Southwestern Montana. The extreme cold and blizzard conditions with drifting snow and near record snowfall have created extraordinary conditions relating to opening and maintaining state, county, and local roads for vehicular travel;

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service has predicted continued snowfall and blizzard conditions in Anaconda Deer Lodge County;

WHEREAS, narrow emergency routes in Anaconda Deer Lodge County create additional hazards to public safety associated with snow removal, particularly in the form of unique barriers to access to emergency services in the area;

WHEREAS, local governments in Montana have the primary planning and response obligation to ensure public safety and the ability to access essential life-saving services;

WHEREAS, all available city and county equipment and personnel have been committed to conducting emergency protective measures, and the city and county have contracted with private citizens to provide additional equipment and personnel in support of life safety missions;

WHEREAS, Anaconda-Deer Lodge County has declared an emergency, and has committed to levying its emergency 2 mills during fiscal year 2019 to be used for restoring services and removing snow to open emergency travel for police, fire, EMS, etc.;

WHEREAS, on February 25, 2019, I executed the Montana Emergency Response Framework with the activation of the State Emergency Coordination Center;

WHEREAS, the immediate need for emergency protective measures is essential to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of residents and stranded travelers and provide access to critical community infrastructure including hospitals, food and energy suppliers, schools, and local government offices;

WHEREAS, the availability and utilization of all necessary state government services, equipment, and suppliers under this declaration will further the efforts to protect health and safety and to preserve the lives, property and resources of the people of the State of Montana; and

WHEREAS, under these conditions pursuant to §§ 10-3-302, 10-3-311 and 10-3-312, MCA, the Governor may mobilize state resources to protect life, health, and property and may expend funds up to the amount determined by the Office of Budget and Program Planning to perform emergency protective measures and address needs that may arise from the emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEVE BULLOCK, Governor of the State of Montana, pursuant to the authority vested in me under the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, Title 10, Chapter 3, MCA, and under other applicable statutes, do hereby declare an emergency to exists within the State of Montana, specifically Anaconda-Deer Lodge County as defined in §§ 10-3-103 and 10-3-302, MCA.

This Order is effective retroactively to February 24, 2019 and expires on March 5, 2019.

OF THE STATE	
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ATTEST:

CORE 1 STATEETON, Secretary of State