Proclamation

WHEREAS, beginning on February 19, 2018, and continuing thereafter, severe storms and heavy rains have created dangerous and damaging conditions which have affected the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens across Ohio; and

WHEREAS, as of the date of this proclamation, Jackson and Scioto Counties have declared a state of emergency and other counties are assessing their need for a state of emergency due to the dangerous and damaging conditions created by these severe storms and heavy rains; and

WHEREAS, additional severe storms and heavy rains will continue through the next few days which have the potential to create additional dangerous and damaging conditions that will affect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, the Ohio National Guard, Ohio Department of Natural Resources and other state agencies have already provided resources to affected areas of the state including flood gate installation, high capacity pumps and sand bags as well as technical assistance in flood fighting efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John R. Kasich, Governor of the State of Ohio, hereby declare that a state of emergency exists for Columbiana, Jefferson, Belmont, Monroe, Washington, Athens, Meigs, Gallia, Lawrence, Scioto, Adams, Brown, Clermont, Hamilton, Hocking, Jackson, and Muskingum Counties, and any other counties that subsequently declare an emergency due to dangerous and damaging conditions resulting from these severe storms and heavy rains, satisfying the authorization of such personnel of state departments and agencies as are necessary, in accordance with Sections 552.22 and 552.28 of the Ohio Revised Code, to assist those counties in protecting the lives, safety, health, and property of its citizens; and

FURTHER, that as Governor of the State of Ohio and Commander-in-Chief of the Ohio National Guard ("ONG"), and pursuant to my authority as set forth in Ohio Revised Code Section 5923.21, I hereby authorize and order ONG Soldiers to State Active Duty, at the discretion of The Adjutant General, commencing on February 24, 2018, and remaining on duty, at the discretion of The Adjutant General, for as long as they are needed by the above listed counties and any other counties that subsequently declare a state of emergency due to dangerous and damaging conditions resulting from these severe storms and heavy rains, to take whatever actions are necessary to assist local authorities in the protection of the lives, safety, health, and property of the citizens of the State. The Adjutant General shall provide for all transportation, services, equipment and supplies necessary for the designated units of the Ohio National Guard. Those units and personnel ordered to duty herein will act pursuant to the orders issued on my behalf by The Adjutant General, and through him, by their commanding officers; and

FURTHER, that in order to locate and procure any necessary resources or supplies to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the above listed Counties and any other counties that subsequently declare a state of emergency due to dangerous and damaging conditions resulting from these severe storms and heavy rains, I hereby further request the Department of Administrative Services and other departments and agencies of the state to suspend purchasing and contracting requirements for contained in Chapters 125 and 153 of the Revised Code, pursuant to Section 125.061 of the Revised Code, during the period of the emergency, for the Ohio Emergency Management Agency and any other state agency participating in emergency assistance under this declaration; and

FURTHER, that this emergency proclamation does not activate the procedures contained in section 123:1-46-01 of the Ohio Administrative Code or the corresponding directive issued by the Department of Administrative Services (HR-D-11 dated January 12, 2018). Accordingly, State of Ohio employees’ obligation to travel to and from work is not limited as a result of this emergency proclamation; and
FURTHER, that I signed this emergency proclamation on February 24, 2018, in Columbus, Ohio, and it shall take effect immediately. It will remain in full force and effect until the emergency no longer exists, such time to be determined by the Executive Director of the Emergency Management Agency in consultation with the Governor, who will coordinate state response efforts and terminate the emergency upon the recommendation of appropriate officials of the other responding state departments and agencies.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name at Columbus, Ohio, on the 24th day of February, 2018.

John R. Kasich  
Governor, State of Ohio