

## A PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, the Louisiana Sweet Potato Advertising and Development Commission was created 70 years ago on July 8, 1952 by Act 272 of the 1952 Regular Session making it the oldest agricultural commodity commission in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the Louisiana Sweet Potato Advertising and Development Commission works to expand the market and increase consumption of sweet potatoes grown in Louisiana by acquainting the general public with the health giving qualities and the food value of sweet potatoes.

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature of Louisiana has recognized the sweet potato as the official state vegetable; and

**WHEREAS**, the first sweet potato commercial production in the state occurred in Sunset, Louisiana, in 1910; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Louisiana State University (LSU) AgCenter's Agricultural Summary there were over seven thousand one hundred acres of sweet potatoes farmed in the state in 2021 creating a total value of eighty-five million dollars, making it the largest vegetable crop grown in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the LSU AgCenter Sweet Potato Research Station located in Northeast Louisiana is the only one of its kind in the country devoted solely to sweet potato research including the development of new varieties, which are some of the most popular in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lamb Weston Sweet Potato Processing Plant located in Delhi, Louisiana is the largest sweet potato french fry plant in America.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Mike Strain, Commissioner of Agriculture and Forestry, in recognition of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Louisiana Sweet Potato Advertising and Development Commission, do hereby proclaim November 15, 2022 as:

### LOUISIANA SWEET POTATO DAY in the state of Louisiana



In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of my Office to be affixed on this 15th day of November 2022.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mike Strain", is written over a faint, larger version of the signature.