WHEREAS: The 1850 Oregon Donation Act initiated homesteading in Oregon; and
WHEREAS: The Homestead Act of 1862 is one of the most significant laws in the history of the United States; and
WHEREAS: Oregon includes 62,926 patented homesteads that cover more than 10.5 million acres, which is 17 percent of the land in the state; and
WHEREAS: This homesteading has forever changed the environment and culture of the state; and
WHEREAS: The food grown on these homesteads fed Oregon's towns and cities and made agriculture the foundation of Oregon's economy; and
WHEREAS: The people living on these homesteads created schools and cities in all parts of the state; and
WHEREAS: The United States Bureau of Land Management is observing this year the 150th anniversary of the Homestead Act.

NOW, THEREFORE: I, John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim June 7, 2012 to be

HOMESTEADING DAY IN OREGON

in Oregon and encourage all Oregonians to join in this observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Great Seal of the State of Oregon to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Salem in the State of Oregon on this day, May 30, 2012.

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

Kate Brown, Secretary of State