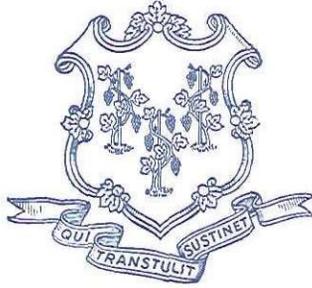


State of



Connecticut

By His Excellency JOHN G. ROWLAND, Governor: an

## Official Statement

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut has a proud history of environmental achievements that preserve our communities and protect the health of our residents. We recognize that an informed public plays a key role in reducing the risk of chemical hazards in the community; and

WHEREAS, through the Connecticut State Emergency Response Commission, the State of Connecticut has made a priority commitment to providing information to the public regarding hazardous and toxic chemicals; and

WHEREAS, established in 1988, the State Emergency Response Commission includes emergency response officials, representatives from facilities using hazardous materials, the general public and state agencies. The Commission established 155 committees statewide who prepare and administer local emergency response plans and help communities respond to chemical emergencies while protecting the health and safety of local residents; and

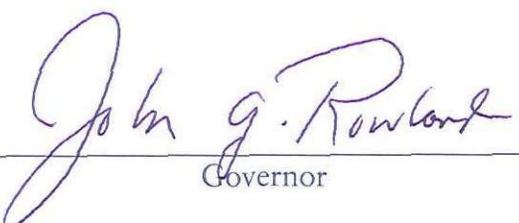
WHEREAS, the Commission works with over 3,000 small and large businesses statewide, including manufacturing plants and industrial facilities who report on their use of hazardous and toxic chemicals. This information is used to plan for responding to chemical emergencies and for chemical management; and

WHEREAS, this public awareness has played a major role in encouraging companies to make a 80 percent reduction in the amount of toxic chemicals released annually in Connecticut since 1988 and has protected the well being of Connecticut's citizens; and

WHEREAS, Hazardous Materials Awareness Conferences, scheduled for March and April, 1999 are additional steps in letting people know they need to be aware of hazardous chemicals in their communities, learn about possible risks and help plan protection for their community in case of an emergency. The more citizens know about chemical hazards where they live, the better equipped they and their local governments will be to make decisions and take actions that will protect their families from risks of hazardous chemicals; now

THEREFORE, I, John G. Rowland, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby officially designate March 1-7, 1999 as HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AWARENESS WEEK in the State of Connecticut. I urge our citizens to become more aware of managing hazardous materials in their communities.



  
Governor