



STATE OF TENNESSEE

# PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

**WHEREAS**, United States Senator Lamar Alexander is Tennessee's senior statesman, a distinguished public servant, and longstanding supporter of the American outdoors; and

**WHEREAS**, as a seventh-generation Tennessean, Senator Alexander has served two terms as Governor and three terms as U.S. Senator, as well as serving as the United States Secretary of Education and President of the University of Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, his remarkable career in the United States Senate includes numerous achievements, including the recent passage of the Great American Outdoors Act, which we celebrate today at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park; and

**WHEREAS**, Senator Alexander shepherded this bipartisan legislation through Congress, marking the most important achievement for conservation and outdoor recreation in the last half century; and

**WHEREAS**, this law will cut the maintenance backlog in our National Parks in half, so that future generations may continue to enjoy these wonders of nature; and

**WHEREAS**, for Tennessee, this means significant investments in our natural treasures including the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, and the Cherokee National Forest; and

**WHEREAS**, The Great American Outdoors Act will permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a goal of Senator Alexander's since 1986 when he chaired the President's Commission on American Outdoors under President Ronald Reagan; and

**WHEREAS**, we gather today to honor Senator Alexander's work and significant contributions to restore our nation and our state's most beloved riches, our great outdoors;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of the State of Tennessee, in recognition of the lifelong commitment of United States Senator Lamar Alexander to preserving our nation and our state's spectacular natural wonders, do hereby proclaim October 30, 2020 as

*Great American Outdoors Act Day*

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this twenty-third day of October, 2020.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*Tu Hargett Jr*

Secretary of State