WHEREAS, North Dakota's diverse landscape and unique climate make for endless opportunities to enjoy recreation during February; and

WHEREAS, our parks and recreation are vitally important to establishing and maintaining the quality of life in our communities, ensuring the health of all citizens and contributing to the economic and environmental well-being of a community and region; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs build healthy, active communities that aid in the prevention of chronic disease and also improve the mental and emotional health of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, parks and recreation programs increase a community's economic prosperity through increased property values, expansion of the local tax base, increased tourism, the attraction and retention of businesses and crime reduction; and

WHEREAS, our parks and natural recreation areas provide a place for children and adults to connect with nature and recreate outdoors.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim February 2021, WINTER RECREATION MONTH in the State of North Dakota.