WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of Labor, dozens of workers die and thousands more become ill every year while working in extreme heat or humid conditions; and

WHEREAS, more than 40 percent of heat-related worker deaths occur in the construction industry, but workers in every field are susceptible; and

WHEREAS, heat-related illnesses and injuries can affect anyone, regardless of age or physical condition; however, heat illnesses are also preventable; and

WHEREAS, important ways to reduce heat exposure and risk include: engineering controls, such as air conditioning and ventilation, that make the work environment cooler; work practices such as work/rest cycles; and drinking water often; and

WHEREAS, employees and individuals are encouraged to take steps to prevent heat-related injuries when working outdoors or enjoying outdoor activities; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina encourages all workers, employers, and people to raise awareness of best practices in preventing heat-related illnesses and injuries to reduce the number of incidents across the state this year and in the future;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim August, 2018, as “HEAT SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH” in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.