



STATE OF ALABAMA
PROCLAMATION
BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the current predictions of the National Weather Service demonstrate the potential for the entire State of Alabama to be severely affected by extreme and prolonged subfreezing temperatures, with the chance of ice and snow, beginning on January 23, 2014. This emergency declaration is in response to the extreme cold experienced throughout Alabama from the polar vortex and the possible continuing effects of the arctic cold on people and property, including an immediate threat to human life or public welfare in the State of Alabama,

WHEREAS, an emergency exemption is issued as a result of extreme arctic cold weather conditions causing shortages and interruptions in the availability and/or delivery of propane and other home heating fuels throughout the State of Alabama,

WHEREAS, the polar vortex has increased the number of deaths throughout the nation, and may result in abnormally high demand and potential supply shortages for conventional heating fuels and threaten the safety and well-being of citizens, agribusiness, and business property located throughout the State of Alabama,

WHEREAS, in consideration of the health and safety of Alabama residents and the protection of their property within the affected areas, and in the public interest, all steps necessary should be taken to protect people and property, and

WHEREAS, this declaration provides for the regulatory relief for commercial motor vehicle operations while providing direct assistance supporting the delivery of propane and home heating fuels into the affected areas of Alabama and consumers in the State of Alabama during the emergency. Direct assistance terminates when a driver or commercial motor vehicle is used in interstate commerce to transport cargo or provide services not directly supporting the emergency relief effort.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert Bentley, Governor of the State of Alabama, pursuant to Section 31-9-1, *et seq.*, Code of Alabama (1975), as amended, do hereby declare that a State of Emergency exists in the State of Alabama and ask that the appropriate state agencies exercise their statutory authority to assist the entities affected.

FURTHER, the provisions of this Proclamation shall exist and remain in effect until such time as the threat to public safety and health shall cease to exist and until this Proclamation is terminated. This State of Emergency also invokes the provisions of 49 CFR §§ 390.23 and 390.25 (2010) relating to the delivery of heating fuels to the State of Alabama and its citizens and businesses in need. During this State of Emergency, any rule, regulation, or practice of the propane gas industry contrary to this declaration of emergency is hereby suspended until this Proclamation is terminated.

FURTHER, in accordance with the Code of Alabama (1975), Sections 8-31-1 through 8-31-6, I hereby place all persons on notice that it is unlawful for any person or business within the State of Alabama to impose unconscionable prices for the sale or rental of any commodity or rental facility during the period of a declared State of Emergency.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal to be affixed by the Secretary of State at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on this 23 day of January, 2014.



Attested



Jim Bennett
Secretary of State



Robert Bentley
Governor