



Proclamation

- WHEREAS: The population of the world today exceeds five billion and is increasing at an unprecedented annual rate of some 90 million; and
- WHEREAS: Virtually all of this growth occurs in the poorest countries, those least able to provide even basic services for their current human numbers, much less guarantee education and employment opportunities or expectations of an improved quality of life; and
- WHEREAS: Demands of growing populations have contributed substantially to enormous environmental devastation and pose threats of even greater travesties upon our land, our sea, and our air; and
- WHEREAS: The careless clearing of forests and farming of marginal lands exacerbate soil erosion and contribute to the annual global loss of 26 billion tons of topsoil, resulting in flooding, expansion of deserts and depletion of fresh water supplies; and
- WHEREAS: Evidence is mounting that pollution, especially that associated with urban concentrations, has led to deterioration of the ozone layer, nature's atmospheric shield protecting the earth's surface from the full intensity of the sun's rays, and within 40 years the ultraviolet light reaching our planet is expected to be five to twenty percent greater than it is today; and
- WHEREAS: A rapidly growing world population's reliance upon burning fuels is a critical factor in the emission of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, which many scientists believe has already catalyzed a warming of the earth's climate which left unchecked will eventually melt the Western Anatarctic ice cap and inundate cities from London to Beijing to New York; and
- WHEREAS: Research reveals that fully half of the women of reproductive age in the developing world need and want to limit the size of their families but lack either the means, information or education to gain access to family planning; and
- WHEREAS: The global community has for more than twenty years recognized, as a fundamental human right, couples' and individuals' decisions to voluntarily and responsibly determine the number and spacing of their children; and the United States has been a leading advocate of this universal human right; and
- WHEREAS: In 1989, 40 United States Governors proclaimed "World Population Awareness Week" in their states to call attention to the serious consequences of rapid population growth;
- NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rudy Perpich, Governor of the State of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the week of October 22, 1989 to be

WORLD POPULATION AWARENESS WEEK

in Minnesota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this fifth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eighty-nine, and of the State the one hundred thirty-first.

Rudy Perpich
GOVERNOR OF MINNESOTA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FILED

DEC 5 1989

Jean Anderson Neume
SECRETARY OF STATE

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Jean Anderson Neume
Secretary of State