

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

WHEREAS, after debate, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin penned into the United States Declaration of Independence the famous promise of our "...unalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness"; and

WHEREAS, along with the right to pursue happiness comes an ethical responsibility to exercise that right, and to guide our values, policies and politics in a way that makes it possible for our fellow citizens to pursue happiness as well; and

WHEREAS, Gross Domestic Product is not, and never was intended to be, an indicator of happiness or well-being; and GDP fails to capture major factors that contribute to people's happiness, such as security, leisure, and a clean and sustainable environment; and

WHEREAS, research shows that income levels are associated with happiness up to an amount at which people's basic needs are met and at which point the correlation between income and happiness evaporates; and

WHEREAS, Vermont is leading the nation through Act 113 legislation which measures the state of Vermont's economic, environmental, and societal well-being as a supplement to the measurement derived from the gross state product and other existing statistical measurements; and

WHEREAS, in order to raise awareness of our responsibility to create happiness and to increase opportunities for people to share and discuss ideas about how to build more happiness into our futures and the future of Vermont.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Peter Shumlin, Governor, do hereby proclaim April 13, 2015, the anniversary of President Jefferson's birth, as

PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS DAY

in Vermont.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 2nd day of April, A.D. 2015



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Peter Shumlin", written over a horizontal line.

Peter Shumlin
Governor