

# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

Whereas, The holiday and Christmas tree season provides hundreds of seasonal jobs for Massachusetts families at 459 Christmas tree farms on nearly 3,000 acres of land from Cape Cod to the Berkshires during a time when most other agriculture harvesting in the Commonwealth has concluded for the year; and

Whereas, The Christmas tree growing industry contributes over \$4.5 million to the Massachusetts economy each year; and

Whereas, Christmas tree farms help to remediate soil health since they are often sited on land that cannot support other crops and thereby help to prevent erosion and protect water supplies; and

Whereas, Christmas trees are a highly recyclable crop with the ability to be used as a renewable source of energy for fuel or used as mulch or compost; and

Whereas, One acre of 8 to 12 - year old Christmas trees produces nearly a half ton of new biomass each year, removing nearly 500 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere, and freshening the air with approximately 1,000 pounds of oxygen; and

Whereas, Christmas tree farms also provide stable refuge and feeding areas for wildlife, which allows for a natural buildup of biodiversity in the plant and animal populations,

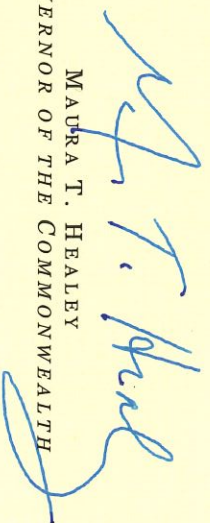
Now, Therefore, I, Maura T. Healey, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, to be,

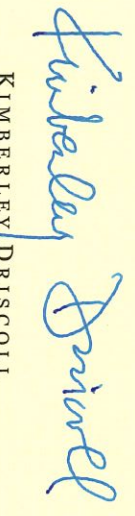
## GREEN FRIDAY

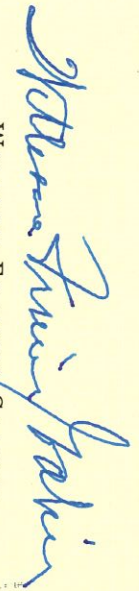
And urge all residents of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this twenty-ninth day of November, in the year two thousand and twenty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-eighth.

BY HER EXCELLENCY

  
MAURA T. HEALEY  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

  
KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL  
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

  
WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts