



DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, current weather projections indicate Jackson County will be significantly impacted by an approaching winter storm; and

WHEREAS, the projected winter storm constitutes a State of Emergency as defined in N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 166A-19.3(6) and 166A-19.3(19); and

WHEREAS, certain measures are necessary to ensure the protection and safety of Jackson County residents and coordinate the emergency response among County Municipalities and neighboring Counties; and

WHEREAS, Jackson County residents are encouraged to stay inside to stay warm and to stay off the roadways unless necessary; and

WHEREAS, declaring a State of Emergency and imposing the restrictions and prohibitions ordered herein is necessary to maintain order and protect public health, safety, and welfare, and to secure property.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Jackson County under Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes and the Emergency Management Ordinance for the County of Jackson:

Section 1. A State of Emergency is hereby declared within the jurisdiction of Jackson County.

Section 2. The emergency area covered by this state of emergency shall be Jackson County and by request of the Mayors or their appointed representatives of the Town of Sylva, the Town of Dillsboro, the Town of Webster and the Village of Forest Hills, within the corporate limits of those municipalities.

Section 3. The following restrictions and prohibitions are imposed:

A. **Restricted Access:** No person except those involved in emergency operations activities will be allowed to traverse dangerous public roadways. Recreational use of public roadways deemed dangerous is prohibited.

B. **Evacuation:** The Emergency Management Coordinator, when necessary, may move people in public places, direct and compel the voluntary or mandatory evacuation of all or part of the population from any stricken or threatened area, prescribe routes, modes of transportation and destinations in connection with evacuation, and control the ingress and the egress of an emergency area and the movements of people within the area.

Section 4. I hereby order all Jackson County law enforcement officers and employees and all other emergency management personnel subject to our control to cooperate in the enforcement and implementation of the provisions of this Declaration, all applicable local ordinances, state and federal laws, and the Jackson County Emergency Operations Plan.

Section 5. I hereby order this declaration: (a) to be distributed to the news media and other organizations calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; (b) to be filed with Clerk to the Jackson County Board of Commissioners and (c) to be posted on the County's website as soon as possible (d) to be sent to the Department of Public Safety's WebEOC critical incident management system (e) to be distributed to others as necessary to ensure proper implementation of this declaration.

Section 6. This declaration shall take effect immediately, and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded.

[SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE]



DECLARED this the 23rd day of January, 2026 at 1:40 a.m./p.m.

Mark A. Letson
Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Jackson County

ATTEST:

Angela M. Winchester
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners of Jackson County