WHEREAS, working women constitute 66 million of the nation's workforce and strive to serve their communities, their states and their nation in professional, civic, and cultural capacities; and

WHEREAS, women-owned businesses account for 28 percent of all businesses in the United States, generating $1.15 trillion in sales each year; and

WHEREAS, from 1997 to 2002, the number of women-owned firms in America increased 14 percent, with the greatest growth occurring in non-traditional industries such as construction, agricultural services, transportation and communications, finance, insurance, and real estate; and

WHEREAS, business and professional women throughout South Carolina and the nation are dedicated to promoting equality for all women and to helping create better conditions for business women through the study of social, educational, economic, and political problems.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Sanford, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 20 – 24, 2003, as

SOUTH CAROLINA BUSINESS WOMEN’S WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to recognize the many contributions made by business and professional women to our continued economic prosperity.

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA