

WHEREAS; since time immemorial, the practice of caring for the Earth has been rooted in the cultural practices of Indigenous people, and the Native Nations that call Wisconsin home are recognized as the original stewards of this land; and

WHEREAS; founded in 1970 by former Wisconsin Governor and U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson to raise awareness of the environmental challenges facing the planet, Earth Day is now celebrated in Wisconsin and around the world every year on April 22; and

WHEREAS; the first Earth Day saw nearly 20 million Americans participate in rallies, marches, and teach-ins for environmental education at high schools, colleges, and universities across the state and country and catalyzed a grassroots movement that led to the bipartisan passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, Endangered Species, and Marine Mammal Protection Acts, as well as the founding of the Environmental Protection Agency; and

WHEREAS; more than 50 years since the first Earth Day, pollution and climate change continue to pose serious threats to Wisconsin's fish, wildlife, and other natural resources, along with the health, safety, and economic well-being of all Wisconsinites; and

WHEREAS; pollution and climate change also continue to exacerbate historic injustices and existing threats to lower-income communities and communities of color, in particular, underscoring the importance of keeping environmental justice at the forefront of all efforts to ensure and protect the right of all people to a healthy and sustainable environment; and

WHEREAS; mitigating climate change and protecting the environment is not incompatible with supporting good-paying jobs and economic development in the state, and Wisconsinites are ready for bold and urgent solutions that do both; and

WHEREAS; effective and equitable solutions to address environmental challenges will require determination, innovation, imagination, science, and collaboration that can lead to improved health, a transformed and more resilient economy, and a more sustainable future; and

WHEREAS; in conjunction with the celebration of Earth Day 2022, the state released its first-ever Clean Energy Plan, which identifies programs and strategies to lower energy bills, promote energy independence, and invest in Wisconsin's clean energy economy, and established the Office of Environmental Justice to increase collaboration between state and local partners, environmental advocates, communities of color, rural and low-income communities, Native Nations, and more to advance environmentally just policies and address the disparate impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS; as recommended in the Clean Energy Plan, Wisconsin also announced a new Green Ribbon Commission on Clean Energy and Environmental Innovation to advise on creating the state's first-ever Green Innovation Fund, which will leverage public and private financing to invest in projects that provide environmental and clean energy solutions to businesses, reduce pollution, lower energy costs for families, and expand access to clean, affordable energy options; and

WHEREAS; in 2021, the state of Wisconsin joined the global Trillion Trees Initiative, pledging to work with public, private, and nongovernmental partners to conserve 125,000 acres of forestland and plant 75 million trees by the end of 2030, and in 2023, the third year of Wisconsin's pledge, more than 9.8 million trees were planted across the state and more than 3,000 acres of forestland were conserved; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin recognizes the undeniable toll that the climate crisis is taking on folks across the state—from the Driftless to the Central Sands to the Northwoods to the hearts of urban areas—and resolves to work tirelessly to build a sustainable future that leaves the state, country, and world a better place for future generations to inherit;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby
proclaim April 22 2024 as

EARTH DAY

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance to all our
state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 8th day of April 2024.

TONY EVERS, Governor
By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State