

WHEREAS; celebrated in Wisconsin every year on the last Friday in April, Arbor Day is an international holiday dedicated to the planting of trees and honoring the importance of trees and forests; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin has more than a century-long commitment to reforestation, and for over 40 years, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has provided tree seedlings to the state's fourth-grade students for their Arbor Day celebrations; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin's 17 million acres of forests, along with the state's urban forest infrastructure, offer a natural climate solution with countless environmental and quality-of-life benefits that include storing carbon, protecting air and water quality, capturing and filtering stormwater, enhancing wildlife habitats, supplying renewable energy, reducing energy consumption, cooling urban landscapes, and supporting social connection; and

WHEREAS; recognized during the period that begins with Earth Day and ends with Arbor Day, Forest Appreciation Week is a time to acknowledge Wisconsin's trees and forests for their importance to the environment, economy, public health, and collective identity of the state; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin's trees and forests are among the state's most beautiful and critical natural resources, and educating kids, families, and communities about sustainable forestry is vital to their long-term conservation; and

WHEREAS; in 2021, the state of Wisconsin joined the global Trillion Tree 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; in January, the state also announced the approval of an additional conservation easement covering 54,898 acres of the Pelican River Forest to complete one of the largest conservation projects in Wisconsin history, and altogether, over 67,000 acres of the Pelican River Forest will be protected, ensuring the forest will remain open to the public in perpetuity and making significant progress toward the state's Trillion Trees Pledge; and

WHEREAS; this Arbor Day and Forest Appreciation Week, the state of Wisconsin encourages all Wisconsinites to spend time outdoors, plant and care for trees, and show their gratitude towards the professionals who dedicate their time to caring for the state's trees and forests;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim April 22 through 26 2024, as

## **FOREST APPRECIATION WEEK**

and April 26, 2024, as

## **ARBOR 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