

WHEREAS; boasting over 84,000 miles of rivers and streams, approximately 800 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, and more than 15,000 inland freshwater lakes, Wisconsin is home to a vast and bountiful array of natural resources, including 230 miles of the Upper Mississippi River, which winds its way along the western boundary of the state; and

WHEREAS; the Mississippi River is one of the nation’s most vital waterways and spans approximately 2,350 miles from Minnesota to Louisiana, uniting 10 mainstem states and nearly three dozen tributary states, with 10 locks and dams located along the border of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; the Mississippi River has been deeply woven into the lives of Indigenous peoples for thousands of years, sustaining communities through nourishment, travel, and trade while also holding profound cultural, spiritual, and ancestral significance; and

WHEREAS; a vital habitat for diverse wildlife, the Mississippi River also serves as a critical source of drinking water for more than 20 million Americans, including many Wisconsinites, and connects Wisconsin to the global economy, providing countless opportunities for environmental stewardship, economic development, agriculture, recreation, conservation, and so much more; and

WHEREAS; in recent years, the Mississippi River has experienced shoreline erosion, wetland degradation, flooding, and the everyday effects of climate change, and the collective work of dedicated individuals, organizations, stakeholders, and businesses, as well as Tribal and government leaders throughout Wisconsin, is paramount to ensuring that the Mississippi River and all other waterways across the state remain safe, healthy, and protected for years to come; and

WHEREAS; the state is committed to protecting Wisconsin’s navigational and recreational waters and recognizes the importance of investing in conservation and working to ensure that every Wisconsinite has access to clean drinking water; and

WHEREAS; on this occasion, and especially during 2026 the Year of the Neighbor, the state of Wisconsin recognizes the undeniable impact of the Mississippi River that connects millions of people, 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 June 2 2026 as

NATIONAL MISSISSIPPI RIVER 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 May 2026.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State