

WHEREAS; the Underground Railroad was a secret network of routes and safe houses utilized by enslaved African Americans to escape to Canada, among other destinations, and between 1842 and 1861, more than 100 formerly enslaved individuals—including Caroline Quarlls, the earliest recorded freedom seeker to travel through Wisconsin, and Joshua Glover, who was liberated from a jail in Milwaukee—were aided on their journey to freedom by Wisconsin residents; and

WHEREAS; while accounts of Underground Railroad experiences are scarce, as both those who traveled it and those who aided them had to be discreet about their activities, documentation relating to several courageous journeys through Wisconsin have since been uncovered; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin is home to one remaining authenticated underground railroad site that is available to the public, the Milton House Museum, which features an underground tunnel used by freedom seekers in North America; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin is committed to the preservation of Underground Railroad history and recognizes the efforts of the many people—in Wisconsin and throughout the world—who have dedicated their lives to keeping the memory of the Underground Railroad alive, including through the National Park Service’s National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom and UNESCO’s Sites of Memory designations; and

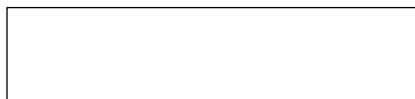
WHEREAS; on this occasion, the state of Wisconsin joins all Wisconsinites and all Americans in recognizing the role of the Underground Railroad in the eradication of slavery in the United States, in reflecting and acknowledging the nation’s history and how it informs the systems of oppression that persist today, and in committing to building a more just, equitable, and free state and nation for all;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim September 2023 as

INTERNATIONAL UNDERGROUND RAILROAD MONTH

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 18th day of August 2023.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State