WHEREAS; while Indigenous people have inhabited this continent and this region since time immemorial, the Wisconsin Territory was formed in 1836, and Wisconsin officially became the 30th state on May 29, 1848; and

WHEREAS; recognized nationally as "America's Dairyland," Wisconsin has a proud history of agricultural prowess, contributing as the nation's leading cheese, cranberry, and ginseng producer, among other goods, and the robust industry supports more than 435,000 jobs statewide annually; and

WHEREAS; founded on the industries of mining, manufacturing, navigation and maritime, and agriculture, Wisconsin has a proud history of excellence and continues to grow its industries and impact across the globe through innovation, research, and scientific advancement; and

WHEREAS; boasting world-champion sports teams, acclaimed music festivals, outstanding breweries and wineries, inspiring museums and galleries, and so much more, each corner of the state has enriching and entertaining destinations that contribute to the state's thriving, multi-billion tourism and travel industry every year; and

WHEREAS; home to beautiful state parks, forests, and trails, over 800 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, more than 15,000 inland freshwater lakes, 88,000 miles of rivers and streams, and countless recreation areas, local parks, and green spaces, Wisconsin's natural beauty cannot be understated, and there is no shortage of outdoor recreational activities for people of all ages, interests, and abilities to enjoy year-round; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin is also home to more than 457,000 small businesses that are the hearts of communities and catalysts for local economies, supporting the livelihoods of families, creating community spaces and experiences, and bringing unique products and services to every corner of the state; and

WHEREAS; with the founding of the first kindergarten in the United States in Watertown and as the birthplace of the Wisconsin Idea, Wisconsin has a long and proud history of championing education at every level and advancing and developing high-quality education services and programs for the benefit of all; and

WHEREAS; from Superior to Kenosha and Washington Island to La Crosse, Wisconsin has something to offer everyone and friendly faces wherever you go because what truly makes Wisconsin wonderful are the "Cheeseheads" who call it home; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin joins Wisconsinites and Wisconsinites at heart in celebrating all that makes the Dairy State a wonderful place to live, work, and play;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim September 15 through 21 2024 as

WONDERFUL WISCONSIN WEEK

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 29th day of August 2024.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State