WHEREAS; employee stock ownership plans (ESOPs) are employee benefit plans that allow workers to accumulate ownership in their companies in the form of stock shares; and

WHEREAS; in recent years, ESOPs have gained traction as a critical way to allow workers to share in the financial gain of their labor by investing capital stock in the business that employs them at no cost to themselves; and

WHEREAS; ESOPs provide a strong and secure retirement that significantly supports retirees and their families alongside traditional retirement plans; and

WHEREAS; in addition to retirement support, ESOPs have been shown to increase work productivity, improve employee retention, and enhance workplace engagement by allowing employees to translate their hard work into company success and personal financial gain; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins dedicated advocates and organizations across the state in recognizing the benefit of ESOPs for businesses, employers, and employees across the state and country;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim October 2026 as

EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP 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 29th day of September 2026.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State