

WHEREAS; Native Americans have inhabited this continent and this region since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin is home to 12 Native Nations, including the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Forest County Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk Nation, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Oneida Nation, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Sokaogon Chippewa Community, Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians, and Brothertown Indian Nation; and

WHEREAS; throughout Wisconsin’s history, Indigenous leaders have defended the land, protected the water, and championed Native rights, sovereignty, and prosperity, and in doing so, have promoted the health and well-being of the environment and people in every corner of the state; and

WHEREAS; the immense historical, cultural, and contemporary significance of the Indigenous peoples of this region cannot be understated or undervalued, and an important part of recognizing Indigenous heritage and culture is also recognizing the centuries of colonization, exploitation, oppression, and systemic racism that Indigenous peoples have endured—and continue to endure—at the hands of institutions and state and federal governments, including the trauma inflicted upon Native children, families, and communities by federal Indian boarding school policies; and

WHEREAS; the state of Wisconsin has been proud to partner with Native Nations on a number of initiatives, including those to promote economic, workforce, and community development, and to recommit itself to the principles of respectful and cooperative communication in government-to-government relations with Native Nations, stressing the importance of collaboration to help improve the planning and delivery of state services to Tribal governments, Tribal communities, and Tribal citizens while recognizing Native Nations’ sovereignty and promoting the inclusion of Native Nations and Tribal perspectives in the work of state agencies; and

WHEREAS; Indigenous Peoples Day was first proposed in 1977 by the International Conference on Discrimination Against the Indigenous Population in the Americas, and in October 2019, it was established in Wisconsin via Executive Order #50 to be observed statewide on the second Monday of every October; and

WHEREAS; on this occasion, the state of Wisconsin strongly encourages all schools, businesses, organizations, public institutions, and local governments to recognize the countless contributions of Indigenous peoples, celebrate Indigenous cultures and heritages, incorporate awareness of Indigenous history, culture, and tribal sovereignty into their everyday practices, and cultivate strong relationships with Indigenous peoples and Native Nations across the state; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin stands in solidarity with Indigenous peoples throughout the state, reaffirms its commitment to closing equity gaps through policy and practice, and pledges to respect the inherent sovereignty of all Native Nations and partner with them to ensure Indigenous people can thrive in Wisconsin;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim October 9 2023 as

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE’S 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 4th day of October 2023.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State