

WHEREAS; from drinking, bathing, and household use, to agriculture, food production, and industrial processes, water is a fundamental part of our everyday lives; and

WHEREAS; water provides the basic support system for all life on our planet, bringing us weather, such as rain and snow, and providing habitat for wildlife such as fish, insects, aquatic birds, reptiles, and amphibians; and

WHEREAS; as Wisconsinites, we pride ourselves on our bountiful natural resources, which include 88,000 miles of rivers and streams, approximately 1,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, more than 15,000 inland freshwater lakes, five million acres of wetlands, and 1.2 quadrillion gallons of groundwater; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin has 11,451 public water systems that serve as the drinking water source for three-quarters of Wisconsin residents, the largest of any state, and approximately 1.7 million people rely on private wells for their water source; and

WHEREAS; healthy waters are culturally recognized by the sovereign Native Nations that call Wisconsin home – including elders, tribal councils, water walkers, and conservation professionals – as a critical foundation for maintaining traditional ways and ceremonies, sustaining hunting and fishing territories, and retaining a bright future for our future generations; and

WHEREAS; bodies of water such as lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands provide habitat, flood protection, and opportunities for fishing, boating, swimming, and other recreational activities that improve quality of life; and

WHEREAS; the people of Wisconsin have enshrined the right to access, use, and protect the waters of our state in the Public Trust Doctrine of our state’s constitution, which has been supported by a history of legislation and legal decisions regarding the conservation of our waters; and

WHEREAS; through strategic partnerships, the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Partnership strives to develop programmatic solutions that meet the current and future water needs of Wisconsinites while educating the public on water issues and opportunities; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin joins the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Partnership in celebrating the importance of water to our collective well-being, and reaffirms its commitment to protecting our recreational waters, investing in conservation, and working to make clean drinking water available to all Wisconsinites;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim March 8 through 12, 2021, as

## **WISCONSIN WATER WEEK**

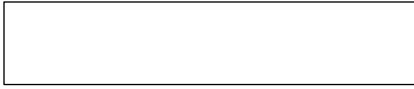
throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state’s residents.

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 17<sup>th</sup> day of February 2021.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State