

WHEREAS; from drinking, bathing, and household use to agriculture, food production, and industrial processes, water is a fundamental part of the everyday lives of Wisconsinites and serves as the basic support system for all life on the planet; and

WHEREAS; with its bountiful natural resources, which include 84,000 miles of rivers and streams, approximately 800 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, more than 15,000 inland freshwater lakes, five million acres of wetlands, and 1.2 quadrillion gallons of groundwater, the state of Wisconsin is committed to upholding and defending clean water initiatives across the state, including efforts in the 2023-25 biennial budget to protect drinking water from PFAS and nitrate pollution and to replace lead service lines; and

WHEREAS; in 2021, Wisconsin had 11,228 public water systems—the largest number of any state—serving as the drinking water source for about three-quarters of Wisconsin residents, with the majority of those who did not utilize the state’s public water systems relying on private wells as their water source; and

WHEREAS; healthy waters are 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 cultural traditions and practices, sustaining hunting and fishing territories, and retaining a bright future for future generations; and

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

WHEREAS; enshrined in the state’s constitution and supported by a history of legislation and legal decisions regarding the conservation of the state’s waters, the Public Trust Doctrine establishes that the people of Wisconsin have the right to access, use, and protect the waters of the state; 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 dedicated organizations like the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Partnership in celebrating the importance of water to the collective well-being of all Wisconsinites and reaffirms its commitment to protecting recreational waters, investing in conservation, and working to ensure that people in every corner of the state are able to drink straight from their taps without fear of contamination;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim April 17 – 23, 2023, 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 7th day of April 2023.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI, Secretary of State