

WHEREAS; the practice of caring for the Earth is rooted in the cultural practices of Indigenous people, and we recognize that the twelve Native Nations that call Wisconsin home are the original stewards of this land; and

WHEREAS; founded in 1970 by former Wisconsin Governor and U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson to raise awareness about the environmental challenges facing our planet, including air and water pollution, Earth Day is now celebrated in Wisconsin and around the world every year on April 22; and

WHEREAS; on the inaugural Earth Day, then-Senator Nelson stated that “our goal is not just an environment of clean air and water and scenic beauty,” but “an environment of decency, quality, and mutual respect for all other human beings and all other living creatures”; and

WHEREAS; the first Earth Day saw nearly 20 million Americans participate in rallies, marches, and teach-ins for environmental education at high schools, colleges, and universities across our state and country, and catalyzed a grassroots movement that led to the bipartisan passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, Endangered Species, and Marine Mammal Protection Acts, as well as the founding of the Environmental Protection Agency; and

WHEREAS; today, pollution and climate change continue to pose serious threats to Wisconsin’s fish, wildlife, and other natural resources along with the health, safety, and economic well-being of all Wisconsinites, and exacerbate historic injustices and existing threats to lower income communities and communities of color, in particular; and

WHEREAS; the state of Wisconsin affirms that all people, regardless of race, gender, income, or geography, have the right to a healthy and sustainable environment, and that environmental justice must be kept at the forefront of all efforts to ensure and protect this right; and

WHEREAS; we should not have to choose between mitigating climate change and protecting the environment and good-paying jobs and economic development, and Wisconsinites are ready for bold and urgent solutions that will stop treating these goals as mutually exclusive because we can and will do both; and

WHEREAS; effective and equitable solutions to address environmental challenges will require determination, innovation, imagination, science, and collaboration that can lead to improved health, a transformed and more resilient economy, and a more sustainable future; and

WHEREAS; today, in honor of Earth Day, which ignited a spirit of stewardship that has driven progress for over five decades and serves as an annual reminder of the urgent need for environmental justice and activism, cooperation, and sustainability efforts, the state of Wisconsin recognizes the undeniable toll that the climate crisis is taking on folks across the state—from the Driftless to the Central Sands to the Northwoods to the heart of our urban areas—and resolves to work tirelessly to build the sort of sustainable future we want for our state and to deliver on the promise made to future generations to leave them with a better life and a better world to inherit;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim April 22, 2022, as

## **EARTH DAY**

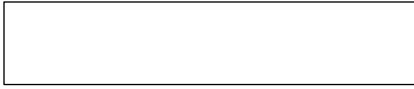
throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state’s residents.

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 18<sup>th</sup> day of April 2022.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State