

WHEREAS; Wisconsin is a state full of unique natural resources, boasting expansive wetlands, rich beds of wild rice, historic forests, clean lakes and rivers, towering waterfalls, and tall grass prairies; and

WHEREAS; Indigenous people are the original stewards of the land and water of our state, protecting wild rice beds, nurturing our forests, and respecting our fish and wildlife for generations; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin is home to Indigenous activists such as Walter Bresette and countless others – along with Indigenous environmental entities like the Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission and the Menominee Tribal Enterprises Forestry Department – as well as Aldo Leopold, John Muir, and Governor Gaylord Nelson, who championed the early movement of environmentalism and created Earth Day; and

WHEREAS; this year, as we observe the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, we celebrate an environmental movement like no other, wherein change is noticeable, real, and rooted in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; the state of Wisconsin and the 11 sovereign Native Nations that call Wisconsin home are working to prioritize the sustainable cultivation of healthy terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, and to ensure that our Earth and the resources we utilize for food, recreation, economic gain, and spiritual retreat are protected and respected; and

WHEREAS; we honor Wisconsin's Native Nations' strong commitment to food sovereignty, rooted in a deep respect for their land and water resources and a passion for producing and preparing food through traditional means of harvesting, fishing, hunting, and gathering; and

WHEREAS; our state reaffirms its commitment to working with tribal partners to foster a better understanding of climate change and to develop solutions, leading to improved ecosystem function and means of sustainable food production; and

WHEREAS; tribal communities are leading the charge for sustainable food production by providing education in gardens and community centers, giving young people the opportunity to be involved in the generational tradition and to learn about the practices of their ancestors while preserving the environment around them and providing access to healthy, traditional foods for tribal citizens; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin pledges to the 11 Native Nations a respect of their sovereignty, a commitment to meaningful partnerships, a desire to listen to their concerns and ideas, and a dedication to collectively caring for our environment and natural resources for generations to come;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim July 2020 as

STATE-TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP 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 7th day of July 2020.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State