WHEREAS; pollution and climate change present a grave threat to the health, safety, and economic well-being of all Wisconsinites, and exacerbate existing threats to lower income communities and communities of color; and

WHEREAS; our state has a responsibility to current and future generations to act to prevent further damage to our climate and to invest in sustainable solutions, including the use of clean energy alternatives; and

WHEREAS; with the signing of Executive Order 38 in 2019, the state of Wisconsin established a goal of transitioning to 100 percent clean energy consumption by the year 2050, to be achieved primarily through the utilization of solar, wind, hydro, biomass, and biogas sources, as well as by developing support from technologies such as energy storage; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin has also committed to fulfilling the carbon reduction goals of the 2015 Paris Climate Accord, which extends beyond electricity sector carbon emissions to include all forms of carbon emissions; and

WHEREAS; our transportation sector consumes almost one quarter of our state’s total energy use while petroleum costs Wisconsin’s taxpayers $8.4 billion per year when, instead, we could be utilizing energy from more cost-effective, locally produced clean electricity and fuels; and

WHEREAS; over the past decade, the price of wind energy has dropped nearly 70 percent and the price of solar energy has dropped over 80 percent, making them both less expensive alternatives to coal-generated electricity, which costs taxpayers nearly $900 million per year; and

WHEREAS; the clean energy sector currently supports over 76,000 jobs in Wisconsin, and positions like Solar Installer and Wind Turbine Technician lead the way as two of the fastest growing jobs nationwide; and

WHEREAS; over the past decade, the price of wind energy has dropped nearly 70 percent and the price of solar energy has dropped over 80 percent, making them both less expensive alternatives to coal-generated electricity, which costs taxpayers nearly $900 million per year; and

WHEREAS; due to their on-site nature, many clean energy jobs are inherently local, cannot be outsourced, and are critical to the growth of our local economies; and

WHEREAS; transitioning to clean energy can provide economic prosperity and vitality to more communities across our state, especially those that have been disproportionately impacted by climate change, those who lack economic security, and those who currently rely on the fossil fuel industry for their livelihoods; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin encourages increased organizational and individual support of innovative solutions that address the economic and energy needs of our state and our country, and joins municipalities and individuals across Wisconsin in working to implement the cleanest, lowest-emitting energy technologies available;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim September 21 through 25, 2020, as

NATIONAL CLEAN ENERGY 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 17th day of September 2020.

TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:

DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State