

WHEREAS; Wisconsin has long been a leader in supporting safety programs at highway-rail grade crossings; and

WHEREAS; we recognize that railroad crashes are often more severe than highway collisions and are, in fact, 20 times more likely to result in death and serious injury; and

WHEREAS; we also recognize that many of these incidents and fatalities are preventable if rail safety practices are respected; and

WHEREAS; since 2003, Rail Safety Week has been observed every September to raise public awareness of the potential dangers at highway-rail grade crossings and of trespassing on railway property; and

WHEREAS; while significant progress has been made in informing folks across our country about incidents and fatalities related to dangerous behavior around railway tracks, 48 crossing incidents and 6 trespassing incidents were reported at highway-rail grade crossings across Wisconsin in 2019, resulting in 8 deaths and 11 injuries; and

WHEREAS; practicing rail safety – which includes keeping in mind that trains appear to be further away and moving slower than they actually are, avoiding tunnels, bridges, and trestles designed solely for trains, and not trespassing on railway property – can save lives; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin joins Operation Lifesaver, Inc. in reminding all Wisconsinites of the importance of being smart and safe around railway property;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim September 21 through 27, 2020, as

## **RAIL SAFETY 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 September 2020.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State