

WHEREAS; hemp has origins dating back thousands of years and is considered one of the oldest cultivated fiber crops in the world; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin was one of our nation's leading producers of hemp in the first half of the 20th century, even producing fiber for the federal government to utilize during the World Wars; and

WHEREAS; the 2014 Farm Bill authorized Wisconsin to create an Industrial Hemp Research Pilot Program in 2018 that issued 245 grower licenses and 97 processor licenses in its first year; and

WHEREAS; with the passage of the 2018 Farm Bill and the removal of hemp from the federal Controlled Substances Act, we have seen a monumental shift in the opportunities for growth and production of hemp in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; grower and processor licenses have increased more than five-fold – to 1,952 licensees total in 2019 and 1,931 licensees total in 2020 – and growers and processors alike are excited about hemp's potential in agriculture, textiles, recycling and bioplastics, food and beverages, construction and industrial materials, and personal care products, among others; and

WHEREAS; today, the state of Wisconsin recognizes and celebrates its long, storied, and proud history of pioneering research, education, innovation, and industrialization of hemp, and welcomes a new era of hemp growing, processing, and product development that will once again place our state as a national leader in the industry;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim October 18, 2020, as

WISCONSIN HEMP DAY

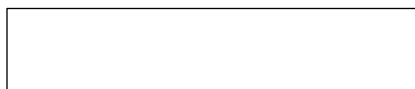
throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.

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 15th day of October 2020.



TONY EVERS, Governor

By the Governor:



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE, Secretary of State