



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER #112

Relating to the Conservation and Restoration of Forestland in Wisconsin

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

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;

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";

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;

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 wellbeing of all Wisconsinites, and exacerbate historic injustices and existing threats to lower income communities and communities of color;

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;

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;

WHEREAS, Earth Day ignited a spirit of stewardship that has driven progress for over five decades, and serves as an annual reminder of the constant need for environmental justice and activism, cooperation and stewardship commitments, and sustainability efforts; and

WHEREAS, this Earth Day, the state of Wisconsin affirms that conserving, restoring, and growing trees in both rural and urban areas remain one of the simplest and most powerful tools for storing carbon and tackling climate change, and pledges to conserve 125,000 acres of forestland and to plant 75 million trees by the end of 2030, in collaboration with public, private, and non-governmental partners.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TONY EVERS, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the Laws of the State, hereby direct the Department of Natural Resources, in partnership with public, private, and non-governmental entities, to achieve a goal of conserving 125,000 acres of forestland and planting 75 million trees by December 31, 2030.



By the Governor:

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 Executive Residence in the Village of Maple Bluff this twenty-second day of April in the year of two thousand twenty-one.



TONY EVERS
Governor



DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State