STATE *of* WISCONSIN

OFFICE *of the* GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS; per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of human-made chemicals used for decades in numerous products, including non-stick cookware, fast food wrappers, stain-resistant sprays, and certain types of firefighting foam, which do not break down in the environment and have been discovered at concentrations of concern in groundwater, surface water, and drinking water; and

WHEREAS; the state's groundwater, surface water, and drinking water resources are interconnected, making PFAS contamination a highly expansive issue, and continued efforts towards the restoration and protection of these water resources are vital to the Wisconsin way of life and the health and safety of kids, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS; more than 4 million Wisconsin residents rely on public water systems that draw from surface and groundwater, and an additional estimated 1.74 million Wisconsin residents rely on private wells for access to safe drinking water; and

WHEREAS; the state is committed to protecting Wisconsin's navigational and recreational waters, investing in conservation, and working to ensure that every Wisconsinite can drink straight from their tap without fear of contamination; and

WHEREAS; in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), 2019 was declared the Year of Clean Drinking Water in Wisconsin, prompting numerous actions over the years to improve water quality across the state, including utilizing state and federal resources to assist communities with sampling municipal water supplies for PFAS, along with the development of Wisconsin's first enforceable statewide standards for surface water and public drinking water to protect Wisconsinites from contaminants such as PFAS; and

WHEREAS; the Wisconsin PFAS Action Council, which consists of 17 state agencies and the University of Wisconsin, worked together to develop Wisconsin's first-ever PFAS Action Plan with statewide initiatives to address growing public health and environmental concerns regarding PFAS in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; the DNR's PFAS External Advisory Group is a collaborative forum for the DNR to solicit feedback about PFAS initiatives in Wisconsin from a variety of perspectives, including local government, business and industry groups, environmental groups, and community members; and

WHEREAS; 2025 Wisconsin Acts 200 and 201, signed into law earlier this year, together facilitated the release of $125 million from the state's PFAS Trust Fund, providing real, meaningful relief to help families and communities tackle the pressing threat of PFAS in local wells, municipal water systems, and more; and

WHEREAS; despite ongoing efforts to continue improving water quality in the state, it's important to note that access to safe, clean, and reliable drinking water continues to be a concern for many across Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin residents expect and deserve access to safe drinking water and should be protected from harmful contaminants that pose a risk to their health; and

WHEREAS; this week, the state of Wisconsin reaffirms its commitment to ensuring access to safe, clean drinking water and encourages Wisconsinites to learn more about PFAS, actions to take when exposed to PFAS, and spread awareness to local communities across Wisconsin;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim September 21 – 25, 2026, as

PFAS AWARENESS 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 21st day of September 2026.

Tony Evers

TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

Sarah Godlewski

SARAH GODLEWSKI
Secretary of State