

Resolution to Raise Awareness of the Importance of Earth Day

WHEREAS, the first Earth Day, created by former Wisconsin Governor and US Senator Gaylord Nelson and coordinated by Denis Hayes, took place on April 22, 1970. Upwards of 20 million people, 10% of the United States population at the time, united to take part in demonstrations to voice their concerns about environmental issues; *and*

WHEREAS, the success of Earth Day 1970 promoted the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the passage of many influential pieces of legislation including, but not limited to: the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and the Endangered Species Act; *and*

WHEREAS, in 1990, Earth Day became a global event, allowing approximately 200 million people from 141 countries to celebrate Earth Day. In the following years, the focus of Earth Day has evolved corresponding to the environmental concerns prevalent at the time, with climate change and the future viability of planet Earth being most critical today; *and*

WHEREAS, currently there is a widespread lack of urgency to put effort towards environmental legislation and the original meaning behind the celebration of Earth Day appears to have lost its significance, as environmental issues have become increasingly integrated into the political agenda and less influenced by science; *and*

WHEREAS, reawakening the initial significance of Earth Day in Wisconsin in the context of modern-day environmental issues is necessary as a means to unite, educate, and inform the public on the adverse effects that these issues can impose on livelihoods, as well as, to preserve the state's natural heritage; *and*

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation's mission is to conserve the state's wildlife and natural resources in the long-term via the protection of clean water and air, as well as, sustainable management of forests and grasslands. Therefore, inaction and a lack of concern for the environment is threatening the long-term sustainability of Wisconsin's great outdoors; *and*

WHEREAS, establishing educational programs and opportunities in elementary schools in the form of field trips, guest speakers, etc., to educate young children on the history and importance of Earth Day, expose them to environmental science at an early age, and inform them about the many ways in which they can carry out environmentally-friendly practices in their own lives, not just on Earth Day; *and*

WHEREAS, organizing events, rallies, protests, clean-up projects, etc., on college campuses across the state on Earth Day and throughout the year will motivate students and locals to take action, as this will revive the initial momentum acquired by Earth Day 1970, in which the younger generation contributed greatly to the drive for environmental justice; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, at its Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, on April 18th-19th, 2020, a few days before the 50th Earth Day on April 22nd, supports the enhanced development of educational and outreach programs aimed at the younger generation to ensure that Wisconsin's outdoors is preserved for

years to come and that people reincorporate the values of the first Earth Day into their daily lives; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation at its Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, on April 18th-19th, 2020, supports the development of a coalition bringing various organizations, educational programs, and future Conservation Leadership Corps together to instill a more unified state-wide approach of environmental awareness and the robust revival of the spirit of Earth Day.

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