Relating to: proclaiming May 2019 as Paper and Forestry Products Month in Wisconsin.

Whereas, trees and Wisconsin’s sustainable well-managed forests, both private and public, are the backbone supporting Wisconsin’s valued way of life and the basis for the social, economic, and ecological well-being of Wisconsinites and the forest products industry; and

Whereas, Wisconsin’s lumber and wood products industry predates the state and papermaking began in 1848, three months before Wisconsin became a state, and paper manufacturing has been a cornerstone of the state’s economy for more than 165 years, leading the nation in paper manufacturing for more than 60 years; and

Whereas, the logging, papermaking, and printing industries significantly contribute to Wisconsin’s economic health and well-being by employing more than 106,000 women and men in family-supporting jobs whose annual income exceeds $6.4 billion; and
Whereas, the paper and forest products industries contribute an estimated
$238 million in state and local taxes; and

Whereas, Wisconsin produces a greater diversity of paper and wood products
than any other state in the Union; and

Whereas, as 2019 has been declared by Governor Tony Evers as “The Year of
Clean Drinking Water” and Speaker Robin Vos has established a “Water Quality
Task Force,” Approximately two-thirds of the nation’s freshwater resources
originate on forested lands, both public and private. Some 180 million people in over
68,000 communities rely on these forested lands to capture and filter their drinking
water; and

Whereas, thanks to sustainable forestry practices, Wisconsin forests are
growing one and a half times more timber than is being harvested each year and
there are more trees in forests throughout the United States than there were 100
years ago; and

Whereas, the paper, pulp, forestry, and printing industries are sustainable,
environmentally-conscious and are a major driver of Wisconsin’s economy; and

Whereas, Wisconsin’s nearly 17 million acres of forest lands and its millions of
urban trees significantly enhance the quality of life in our great state, contribute to
water quality, support and enhance soil quality, provide habitat and sustenance for
terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna, and offer four-season recreational and
aesthetic opportunities to residents and visitors of all ages; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the members of the
Wisconsin State Legislature proclaim May 2019 as Paper and Forestry Products
Month in Wisconsin and commend this observance to all citizens; and, be it further
Resolved, That the legislature calls upon our citizens to learn more about the important role the paper, forestry, and printing product sectors play in our economy and the environment; and, be it further

Resolved, That the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint resolution to the Council on Forestry, the Wisconsin Paper Discovery Center, the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education at the College of Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point, the Wisconsin River Papermaking Museum, the Wisconsin Paper Council, Centergy, the Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association, the USDA Forest Products Laboratory, Trees for Tomorrow, Quad/Graphics, WMC, the Wood Industry Collaborative, the Wisconsin County Forests Association, Wisconsin Woodland Owners, Wisconsin River Papermaking Museum, Federal Sustainable Forestry Committee, and the Lake States Lumber Association.

(END)