WHEREAS: On June 20, 1782, the Second Continental Congress commemorated the bald eagle to be the national symbol, and

WHEREAS: The bald eagle has significant cultural and spiritual importance to American Indian and Alaska Native cultures and identities, including the eleven sovereign tribal nations that share geography with the state of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS: The bald eagle is one of our nation’s wildlife and environmental conservation success stories, from being placed on the Endangered Species List in the 1960s to being restored and removed from the list in 2007; and

WHEREAS: Minnesota is home to the National Eagle Center in Wabasha, Minnesota. Wabasha is located at the gateway to the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. Established in 1989, the Center is dedicated to connecting people to eagles in nature, history, and cultures; and

WHEREAS: The Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, the longest continuous national wildlife refuge in the lower forty-eight states, provides critical habitat, which has supported the quick recovery of the bald eagle population; and

WHEREAS: The Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge is both winter and summer home to hundreds of bald eagles; and

WHEREAS: Bald eagles in permanent residence at the National Eagle Center are conservation ambassadors, inspiring people to be environmental stewards; and

WHEREAS: Minnesotans have an opportunity to pause and reflect upon the importance of the bald eagle to this land and to renew our collective commitment and dedication to its conservation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Monday, June 20, 2022, as:

Bald Eagle Day

in the State of Minnesota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 16th day of June.

[Signature]

GOVERNOR

[Signature]

SECRETARY OF STATE