

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, the experience of standing under a starry night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, encouraging a growing interest in science and nature, particularly among young people and visitors from outside the local communities; and

WHEREAS, light pollution has scientifically established economic and environmental consequences, which result in significant detrimental impacts on ecology and human health of all communities; and

WHEREAS, 80 percent of the world's population, including many people in Pennsylvania, live under a dome of light pollution—excessive artificial lighting at night that disrupts natural darkness—and may never experience the visual wonder and health benefits of living under a dark sky; and

WHEREAS, light pollution represents a waste of natural resources amounting to roughly \$3 billion per year of wasted energy in the United States and contributes to diminished energy security; and

WHEREAS, Cherry Springs State Park, the Commonwealth's first International Dark Sky Park, draws 150,000 visitors a year. Additionally, large number of inquiries related to dark skies indicates a potential for development of additional sites and acknowledgement of the naturally dark night sky as a valuable renewable resource; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania boasts a rich tapestry of nocturnal wildlife that play vital ecological roles, underscoring the importance of protecting and preserving their nighttime habitats for their continued well-being; and

WHEREAS, DarkSky International, the globally recognized authority on light pollution, recognizes Dark Sky Week to raise awareness of the effects of light pollution, provide free education, resources, and solutions to the public, and encourage the protection of and enjoyment of dark skies and responsible outdoor lighting.

THEREFORE, I, Josh Shapiro, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim April 21-28, 2025, as

DARK SKY WEEK

to encourage all Pennsylvanians to observe this important week, and to raise awareness and support for protecting our precious naturally dark sky as a vital resource.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this fourteenth day of April two thousand twenty-five, the year of the Commonwealth the two hundred forty-ninth.

Governor Josh Shapiro