

Proclamation

by Governor Jim Justice

- Whereas,** the aesthetic beauty and wonder of a natural night sky is a shared heritage of all humankind, and the experience of standing beneath a starry night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe and encourages a growing interest in science and nature, especially among young people; and
- Whereas,** many of the Dark Sky Parks and Dark Sky places including New River Gorge National Park, Spruce Knob, Blackwater Falls State Park, Seneca State Park, and more, east of the Mississippi are located in West Virginia, and West Virginia's national, state and local parks are home to dozens of species who rely on undisturbed night environments to hunt, mate, and thrive; and
- Whereas,** 80 percent of the world's population, including many people in West Virginia, lives under a dome of light pollution—excessive artificial lighting at night that disrupts natural darkness—and may never experience the visual wonder or ecological and health benefits of living under a dark sky; and
- Whereas,** light pollution has scientifically established economic and environmental consequences, which result in significant impacts on the ecology and human health of all communities and Virginia's environmental goals for years have included the reduction of light pollution; 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 significantly reducing light pollution would save West Virginia residents tens of millions of dollars per year; and
- Whereas,** the International Dark-Sky Association is the globally-recognized authority on light pollution, and has created International Dark-Sky Week to raise awareness of light pollution, and provide free education, resources, and solutions to the public to encourage the protection of and enjoyment of dark skies and responsible outdoor lighting with the help of West Virginia residents.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *April 15-22, 2023* as:


International Dark Sky Week

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.


Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Twentieth day of February, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Three, and in the One Hundred Sixtieth year of the State.





Jim Justice
Governor

By the Governor:



Mac Warner
Secretary of State