



REPORT

TO: Commissioners
FROM: Ann Sullivan
DATE: March 14, 2023
SUBJECT: Proclamation Recognizing April 15-22, 2023, as International Dark Sky Week

DESCRIPTION:
Proclamation Recognizing April 15-22, 2023, as International Dark Sky Week

**PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING APRIL 15-22, 2023,
AS INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK**

WHEREAS, the beauty and wonder of a natural night sky is a shared heritage of all humankind and inherent to the character and allure of the state of Minnesota; and experiencing starry skies can encourage interest in science, nature and art especially among young people; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota is home to some of the last remaining pristine dark skies in the United States east of the Mississippi River, which preserves the cultural connection to the night sky for all residents who proudly call Cook County and Minnesota home; and

WHEREAS, light pollution has scientifically-established negative economic, environmental, safety and health consequences, while dark skies have been scientifically linked to positive health and environmental effects, and 99 percent of Americans, including many residents of Cook County live under light pollution; and

WHEREAS, light pollution results in a waste of \$3 billion per year in the United States and contributes to diminished national energy security while reducing light pollution could save Cook County residents, corporations and government thousands of dollars per year; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota is home to Voyageurs National Park, recently designated as an International Dark Sky Park and Boundary Waters Canoe Area, recently designated as the largest International Dark Sky Sanctuary in the world and which attract thousands of visitors each year to enjoy the dark skies they offer, bringing economic benefits to Cook County and Northern Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, Cook County is located in a major migratory flyway in which hundreds of species of birds depend on darkness for safe migration and Minnesota is home to hundreds of species of nocturnal animals and insects that depend on darkness for survival;

NOW THEREFORE, we, the County Commissioners of Cook County, Minnesota, do hereby declare April 15 – 22, 2023 as:

INTERNATIONAL DARK-SKY WEEK

In Cook County, Minnesota we ask each resident to join us, not only in observing and reflecting upon this important week, but also in raising awareness and support for protecting our precious dark skies resources.