

Proclamation

by Governor Patrick Morrisey

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 out-of-state visitors; 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, several Dark Sky Parks, Dark Sky Places, and stargazing spots exist in West Virginia, including Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, New River Gorge National Park, Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park, Calvin Prince State Forest, Watoga State Park, James River State Park, Blackwater Falls State Park, Calhoun County Park, and many others attracting visitors from all over the state, nation, and globe; and

Whereas, West Virginia's many wild and wonderful places are home to dozens of species that rely on undisturbed night environments to hunt, mate, and thrive.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Patrick Morrisey, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *April 13-20, 2026*, 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 Twenty-First day of April, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Six, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Third year of the State.



Patrick Morrisey
Governor

By the Governor:



Kris Warner
Secretary of State