The State of Maryland

Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK
APRIL 21st – 28th, 2025

WHEREAS, The experience of standing beneath a star-filled night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, deepens interest in science and nature, and in being outdoors, especially among young people; and

WHEREAS, Light pollution has scientifically established consequences that are detrimental to the economy, waste energy, and contribute to increased carbon emissions, insect decline and the death of millions of migrating birds; and

WHEREAS, Maryland is home to NASA, the pre-eminent location in the United States for research into space, as well as other noteworthy astronomical observatories, which demonstrates the importance the State places on the night sky; and

WHEREAS, Maryland's approach to identifying and preserving the most ecologically critical lands is evidence of the state's commitment to the environment, and protecting the natural dark sky is in line with those principles; and

WHEREAS, Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Dorchester County is recognized as one of the top dark sky viewing locations along the Eastern Seaboard of the United States; and

WHEREAS, DarkSky Maryland, in association with DarkSky International that created International Dark Sky Week, works to raise awareness of the effects of light pollution and provide solutions to encourage the protection and enjoyment of dark skies and responsible outdoor lighting; and

WHEREAS, We recognize our collective role in protecting this valuable resource and our connection to our environment now and for future generations.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WES MOORE, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim **APRIL 21st- 28th, 2025** as **INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK** in Maryland, and do commend this observance to all of our citizens.

Given *Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,*
this 21st day of April
Two Thousand and twenty-five

Governor

Lt. Governor

Secretary of State