



EXECUTIVE PROCLAMATION

On behalf of The Residents of Anne Arundel County, Maryland

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 star-filled night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, and deepens interest in science and nature, especially among young people; and

WHEREAS, light pollution has scientifically established consequences that are detrimental to the economy, costing roughly \$3 billion per year in wasted energy in the United States, and contributing to increased carbon emissions, global insect decline, and the death of millions of migrating birds; and

WHEREAS, 80% of the world's population, including many Anne Arundel County residents, live under a dome of light pollution—excessive artificial lighting at night that disrupts natural darkness and wildlife behavior—and may never experience the visual wonder or ecological and mental health benefits of living under a dark sky; and

WHEREAS, Anne Arundel County has more than 16,000 acres of recreation and natural resource land, and over 160 parks and sanctuaries, which demonstrate the value placed here along the Chesapeake Bay and the local rivers, on exploring nature and protecting the environment, and the health benefits of outdoor activities; and

WHEREAS, DarkSky International is a globally recognized authority on light pollution and created International Dark Sky Week to raise awareness of the effects of light pollution, and provide free education, resources, and solutions to the public to encourage the protection and enjoyment of dark skies and responsible outdoor lighting with the help of Anne Arundel County residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEUART L. PITTMAN, County Executive, do hereby proclaim April 21 - 28, 2025, as International Dark Sky Week in Anne Arundel County and call upon all of our residents to recognize and commend its observance. Given Under My hand and the Great Seal of Anne Arundel County this 21st Day of April in the Year of the Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Five.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Steuart L. Pittman".

STEUART L. PITTMAN
County Executive
April 21, 2025