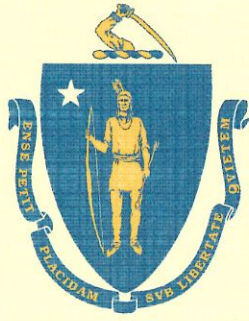


The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



A Proclamation

Whereas, The beauty and wonder of a natural night sky is a shared experience for all humankind that encourages interest in science and nature, especially among young people; and

Whereas, 80 percent of the world's population, including many people in the state of Massachusetts, live 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, particularly in environmental justice communities; and

Whereas, A recent authoritative study used star visibility estimates by thousands of citizens around Massachusetts, the United States and the world to find that night sky brightness has increased over the past 11 years by about 10% annually, a rate about five times that previously recognized; and

Whereas, Light pollution can have economic and environmental consequences, which result in significant impacts on the health of all communities as recognized by the Massachusetts Medical Society; and

Whereas, Light pollution represents a waste of energy and contributes to diminished energy security and will be an important element for Massachusetts to meet or exceed state climate mitigation and resilience goals; and

Whereas, Massachusetts is home to dozens of nocturnal wildlife species — including threatened and endangered ones — that rely on undisturbed night environments to hunt, mate and thrive, with many statewide nonprofits such as MassAudubon, Sierra Club Massachusetts, Grow Native Massachusetts, and the Native Plant Trust working to conserve them and their habitats; and

Whereas, Massachusetts's coastline, in particular, hosts bird migrations for which a dark and starry sky is necessary for them to navigate, and light pollution too often disrupts this process; and

Whereas, the International Dark-Sky Association, headquartered in Tucson, Arizona, with an active chapter in Massachusetts, is the globally-recognized authority on light pollution and has created International Dark Sky Week to raise awareness of light pollution and provides free education, resources, and solutions to the public to encourage the protection of and enjoyment of dark skies and responsible outdoor lighting,

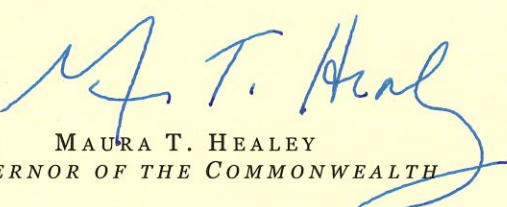
Now, Therefore, I, Maura T. Healey, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim April 2nd through April 8th, 2024, to be,

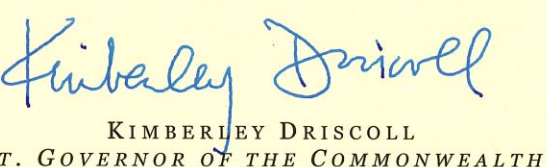
DARK SKY WEEK

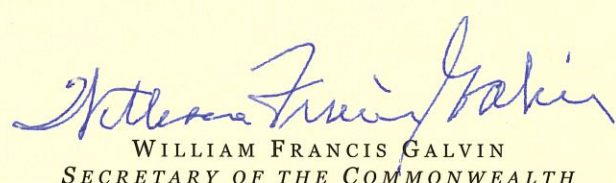
And urge all residents of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this second day of April in the year two thousand and twenty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-seventh.

BY HER EXCELLENCY


MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH


KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH


WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts