

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 study that utilized star visibility estimates by residents around the world, found that night sky brightness has been increasing by about 10% annually, a rate about five times that previously recognized; and

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

Whereas, Massachusetts is home to dozens of nocturnal wildlife species that rely on undisturbed night environments to thrive, with MassWildlife and local advocacy organizations 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, More than 60 communities in Massachusetts have established local bylaws to regulate outdoor lighting and light pollution; and

Whereas, International Dark Sky Week aims 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 21st through April 28th, 2025, 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 twenty-first day of April in the year two thousand and twenty-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and forty-eighth.

BY HER EXCELLENCE

The signature of Maura T. Healey, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

The signature of Kimberley Driscoll, Lt. Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LT. GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

The signature of William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts