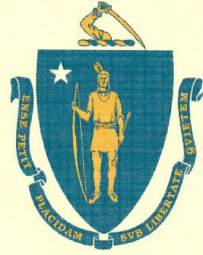


# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

Whereas, The beauty and wonder of a natural night sky is a shared heritage of 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; and

Whereas, A recent authoritative study used star visibility estimates by thousands of citizen scientists around Massachusetts, our country, and the world to find that night sky brightness has been increasing by about 10 percent annually, a rate about five times that previously recognized; and

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

Whereas, Avoidable outdoor-lighting waste associated with light pollution costs billions of dollars per year in the United States and will be an important element for city and towns' Climate Action Plans to meet or exceed state climate mitigation and resilience goals; and

Whereas, Massachusetts is home to dozens of nocturnal wildlife species that rely on undisturbed night environments to hunt, mate, and thrive, with Mass Wildlife and organizations working to conserve them and their habitats; and

Whereas, Massachusetts's coastline hosts annual migrations of birds for which a dark and starry sky is necessary for them to navigate, and because light pollution too often disrupts this; 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,

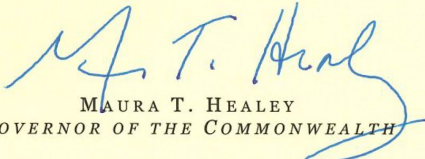
Now, Therefore, I, Maura T. Healey, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim April 13<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026, to be,

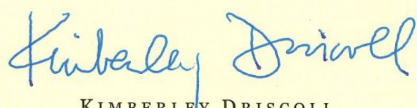
## DARK SKY WEEK

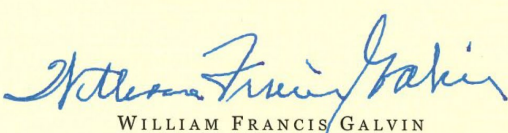
And urge all the residents of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

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

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