

**PROCLAMATION**

- 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 starry night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe and encourages an interest in science and nature, especially among young people and out-of-area visitors within Virginia's local communities; and
- WHEREAS, the greatest number of Dark-Sky Parks east of the Mississippi are located in Virginia, and Virginia's national, state, and local parks—including the longest stretch of miles of the Appalachian Trail—are home to dozens of species who rely on undisturbed night environments to hunt, mate, and thrive; and
- WHEREAS, 80 percent of the world's population, including many people in Virginia 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, light pollution has scientifically-established economic and environmental consequences, which result in significant impacts to the ecology and human health of all communities, and Virginia's environmental goals for years has included the reduction of light pollution; and
- WHEREAS, light pollution represents a waste of natural resources amounting to roughly \$3 billion per year of wasted energy in the United States, contributes to diminished energy security, and significantly reducing light pollution would save Virginia residents tens of millions of dollars per year; and
- WHEREAS, the International Dark-Sky Association is the globally-recognized authority on light pollution, and has created International Dark-Sky Week to raise awareness of light pollution, and provide free education, resources, and solutions to the public to encourage the protection of and enjoyment of dark skies and responsible outdoor lighting;

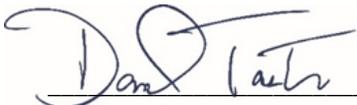
NOW, THEREFORE, I, David Tarter, Mayor of the City of Falls Church, Virginia, do hereby proclaim April 22 – 30, 2022 as

**DARK-SKY WEEK**

in the City of Falls Church, Virginia and urge all to celebrate the pristine and undisturbed dark skies throughout the Commonwealth, and take a moment to ponder our role in protecting this valuable resource and connection to our environment now and for future generations.

IN WITNESS WHEREEOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Falls Church, Virginia to be affixed this 11<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022.



  
David Tarter, Mayor