

Sample Hill Country Nighth Sky Month Proclamation

Whereas, the aesthetic beauty and wonder of dark night skies are the heritage of all humankind and locally to the inhabitants of the Texas Hill Country region; and

Whereas, the experience of standing beneath a dark night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, and may encourage interest in science and nature especially among young people as well as attracts tourism and therefore economic benefit to the Texas Hill Country region; and

Whereas, outdoor lighting directed upward into the sky constitutes “light pollution” of the nighttime environment; and

Whereas, light pollution wastes natural resources amounting to at least \$2 billion per year and contributes to diminished American energy independence; and

Whereas, light pollution has scientifically-established negative effects on ecology and human health, causes dangerous glare and light clutter; and

Whereas, the historical view of the night skies has been eroding in many nearby areas and generations are growing up with limited, if any, view of the wonders of the universe;

Whereas, the influx of people into the Texas Hill Country region and accompanying light trespass from area lighting fixtures has been steadily on the rise, and as a result, light pollution continues to grow at an average annual rate of three to five percent per year, hence these factors have impacted the natural environment and quality of life of the people of this region; and

Whereas, solving the problem of light pollution involves making better use of outdoor lighting to direct light down to where it is needed instead of upward into the sky, putting outdoor lights on timers and using outdoor lighting only where necessary; and

Whereas, several Hill Country communities and parks have received International Dark Skies distinctions, including Enchanted Rock State Natural Area, South Llano State Park, the City of Dripping Springs, the Wimberley Valley, Lost Creek Development, City of Horseshoe Bay, U Bar U Camp & Retreat Center, River Hills Neighborhood, Devils River State Natural Area, Lakewood Village, as well as Big Bend National Park, Big Bend State Park and Copper Breaks State Park, and many more communities and parks are in the process of applying for International Dark Skies distinctions; and

Therefore, I, _____, Governor of the State of Texas, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2020 as,

DARK SKY MONTH