

## Sample Hill Country Night Sky Month Proclamation

Whereas, the aesthetic beauty and wonder of star-filled skies are the heritage of all humankind and locally to the inhabitants of [local jurisdiction] and are therefore worthy of celebration; and

Whereas, the experience of standing beneath a star-filled night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, and may encourage interest in science and nature especially among young people; and

Whereas, the opportunity to view star-filled skies attracts tourists to our region and therefore economic benefit to [local jurisdiction]; and

Whereas, preserving the rich historic heritage and starry night skies of [local jurisdiction] is important to the high quality of life and community of its citizens; 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, 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; and

Whereas, the influx of people into the Texas Hill Country region and the accompanying light trespass from area lighting fixtures has been steadily on the rise, and as a result, light pollution continues to grow; 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, Hill Country communities are increasingly dedicated to the preservation of the region’s night skies, as evidenced by the frequent educational activities conducted in our region and by the increasing number of places in our region recognized as International Dark-Sky Places by the International Dark-Sky Association, including: Enchanted Rock State Natural Area, South Llano State Park, the City of Dripping Springs, the Wimberley Valley, the City of Fredericksburg, the City of Horseshoe Bay, U Bar U Camp & Retreat Center, River Hills Neighborhood of Travis County, and Lost Creek Neighborhood of Travis County; and

Whereas, this regional effort is worthy of a month-long celebration;

Therefore, I, \_\_\_\_\_, [top official] of [local jurisdiction], do hereby proclaim the month of October 2020 as,

NIGHT SKY MONTH