



**BY THE PINAL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
PROCLAMATION
INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK
APRIL 15 - APRIL 22, 2023**

WHEREAS, the aesthetic beauty and wonder of a natural night sky is a shared heritage of all humankind; and

WHEREAS, the experience of standing beneath a starry night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, and encourages a growing interest in science and nature, especially among young people and out-of-area visitors within the local communities; 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

WHEREAS, 80 percent of the world's population, including many people in Pinal County, lives 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 represents a waste of natural resources amounting to roughly \$3 billion per year of wasted energy in the United States and contributes to diminished energy security; and

WHEREAS, Arizona hosts 10% of the world's largest telescopes—including the world's largest optical telescope—and many of the world's most revered observatories, including the Lowell Observatory, the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory/Whipple Observatory, the University of Arizona's MMT and Large Binocular Telescope Observatories, Kitt Peak National Observatory, and the Vatican Observatory; and

WHEREAS, optical astronomy—which is both hindered and endangered by unfettered light pollution—represents a statewide capital investment of more than \$1.3 billion and an annual economic return of over \$250 million, including an indirect attachment to more than 150,000 jobs through the aerospace and defense sector; and

WHEREAS, Arizona is home to dozens of nocturnal wildlife species—including the black-footed ferret, one of the most endangered mammals on the North American continent—and these species rely on undisturbed night environments to hunt, mate, and thrive; and

WHEREAS, the International Dark-Sky Association, headquartered in Tucson, Arizona, 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, WE, the Pinal County Board of Supervisors, do hereby proclaim April 15 - 22, 2023, as "**International Dark Sky Week**". Proclaimed this 5th day of April, 2023. We ask each resident of Pinal County to join, not only in observing and pondering upon this important week, but also in raising awareness and support for protecting our precious dark skies resources.



ATTEST:

Jeff Serdy, Chairman, District 5

Jeffrey McClure, Vice-Chairman, District 4

Kevin Cavanaugh, District 1

Mike Goodman, District 2

Natasha Kennedy, Clerk of the Board

Stephen Q. Miller, District 3