



03/28/23

Salida City Council
448 E. First Street, Suite 112
Salida, CO 81101

RE: International Dark Sky Week Proclamation

Dear City Council:

I am writing to ask your support in helping to preserve dark skies by declaring “International Dark Sky Week,” April 15-22, 2023. I have enclosed my suggested proclamation language to facilitate this action.

In the United States and Europe, 99% of people live under a light-polluted sky, globally, it is $\frac{1}{3}$ of the entire population, yet few are aware of its impact. The damage of artificial light at night goes far beyond blocking our view of the stars and disrupting migratory patterns of wildlife. Its significant impacts on human quality of life warrant far more attention and are often overlooked or falsely written off as the cost of keeping a community safe, despite a lack of evidence that brighter is better.

Light pollution is destroying natural darkness with severe consequences. Scientists link light pollution to global insect decline, the death of millions of migrating birds, increased carbon emissions, and disease.

International Dark Sky Week raises awareness of light pollution and provides solutions to protect dark skies while enjoying good outdoor lighting. International Dark Sky Week 2022 was a huge success, highlighted by proclamations from 23 cities, counties, and states across the United States. Proclamations for 2023 are currently underway. International Dark Sky Week events will be celebrated across the globe to help raise awareness of the benefits of community friendly lighting and our heritage of dark skies.

I hope that you will consider my request for a proclamation of International Dark Sky Week, and appreciate your leadership and support to improve the well-being of the community.

With warm regards and gratitude,

Danielle Robben

Proclamation

April 15-22, 2023 as International Dark Sky Week

WHEREAS, Colorado is treasured by residents and visitors alike for having some of the darkest night skies in the United States; and,

WHEREAS, the experience of standing beneath a dark sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, and may encourage interest in science and nature; and,

WHEREAS, San Luis Valley Great Outdoors and partners in the Sangre de Cristo Dark Sky Coalition are working to educate the community about light pollution and to apply to DarkSky International for the status of “International Dark Sky Reserve;” and,

WHEREAS, dark skies are known to improve quality of life by spurring tourism and other economic development, conserving energy, protecting our natural heritage, and benefiting wildlife; and,

WHEREAS, International Dark Sky Week helps promote simple solutions to mitigate light pollution by only using light where you need it, when you need it, with the minimum amount of light needed, while shielding lights and directing light downward; and,

WHEREAS, education about the night sky helps our community improve and maintain its unique rural character, neighborhood livability, safety, and quality of life.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that, I, **Dan Shore**, Mayor of the City of Salida do hereby designate the week of April 15 to April 22, 2023 as International Dark Sky Week in Salida, Colorado; and further encourages all Salidans and community partners to help educate and learn with one another the benefits of the night sky to our community.

Dan Shore, Mayor

Date