



Tuesday, 20 October 2020

International Dark Sky Association

RE: International Dark Sky Designation for Goosenecks State Park

To Whom It May Concern:

The San Juan County Commission would like to express its full support for the Utah State Parks' request to designate Goosenecks State Park as an International Dark Sky Park.

Specific to San Juan County we have seen a steady 10% increase in Transient Room Tax over the past five years, with a slight bump in the latest comparison of 2018 to 2019's collections. The average dollar value of each visitor transaction in San Juan County for domestic visitors is \$35, with international visitors spending \$77. The total (Visa card) spend for international tourism in 2018 was just over \$6 million.

In light of recent current events with COVID-19 visitors are becoming even more intrigued and interested in visiting remote, open spaced areas. Utah State Parks' proposal to designate Goosenecks State Parks as an International Dark Sky park would support connecting to the visitor demographic San Juan County would like to see.

The goal targeted in this designation will positively contribute to the continued positive growth of San Juan County's tourism economy, as well as regional quality of life. The San Juan County Commission fully supports this effort.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Maryboy  
San Juan County Commission, Chair

