



**BY THE PINAL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
PROCLAMATION
INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK
APRIL 2 – APRIL 8, 2024**

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 in Pinal County; and

WHEREAS, 80 percent of the world’s population, including many people in Pinal County, live 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, 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, Dark Sky International, headquartered in Tucson, Arizona, is the globally recognized authority on light pollution, and uses 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; and

WHEREAS, We encourage Pinal County residents to join us in observing a thirty-minute Dark Skies Lights Out Event across Pinal County from 8.30 P.M. to 9 P.M. on Monday, April 8th, turning off all unnecessary lighting indoors and outdoors, in order to reduce light pollution and to enjoy the beauty of the night sky and the wonders of our universe.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the Pinal County Board of Supervisors, do hereby declare April 2-8, 2024 as **“INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK”** in Pinal County. 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. Proclaimed this 20th day of March, 2024.

Mike Goodman, Chairman, District 2

Jeffrey McClure, Vice-Chairman, District 4

Kevin Cavanaugh, District 1

ATTEST:

Stephen Q. Miller, District 3

Natasha Kennedy, Clerk of the Board

Jeff Serdy, District 5