

# PROCLAMATION



- Whereas,** a Dark Sky Sanctuary is public or private land that has an exceptional or distinguished quality of starry nights and a nocturnal environment that is protected for its scientific, natural, or educational value, its cultural heritage, and/or public enjoyment; and
- Whereas,** the opportunity to experience a naturally dark, star-filled night sky inspires wonder, fosters interest in science and nature—especially among youth and visitors—and supports the growing astro-tourism economy as travelers seek out rare, naturally dark destinations; and
- Whereas,** excessive artificial light has obscured naturally dark skies—denying most Americans, including those in urban Washoe County, the experience of a natural night sky—while also harming human health, disrupting wildlife and ecosystems, and wasting an estimated \$3 billion annually in energy and resources, contributing to pollution and reduced energy security; and
- Whereas,** Nevada, particularly sparsely-populated far northern Washoe County, is home to some of the darkest, starriest skies in the country, including the Massacre Rim International Dark Sky Sanctuary certified in 2019; and
- Whereas,** the town of Gerlach—recipient of the Travel Nevada grant and gateway to some of the darkest skies in the nation, including the Black Rock Desert–High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area—will seek certification as a Nevada Starry Skies Community as recognized by the Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation to raise awareness of light pollution and promote responsible outdoor lighting.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** the Board of County Commissioners does hereby proclaim the week of April 21 - 28 as:

## International Dark Sky Week

Dated this 22nd day of April 2025.

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Alexis Hill, Chair  
Washoe County Commission