

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PROCLAMATION

DARK SKY WEEK APRIL 13-20, 2026

WHEREAS, the aesthetic beauty and wonder of a natural night sky is a shared common focus of all humankind, however, 90% of the world's population, including many in North Dakota, live under a dome of excessive artificial lighting at night that disrupts natural darkness; and

WHEREAS, light pollution has scientifically linked consequences to human health including disruption of circadian rhythms and day/night cycles, increased rates of cancer, heart disease, obesity, diabetes, macular degeneration, sleep and eating disorders and mental health issues such as bipolar disease and dementia; and

WHEREAS, light pollution represents a waste of natural resources, with a 2022 Department of Energy report stating that over \$3.4 billion could be saved annually if smart and sustainable lighting systems were installed across 75% of the country; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota relies economically on a robust agricultural sector, but studies have shown high risks from artificial light at night to pollinator species such as honeybees and moths that provide vital services to agricultural products, and that soybeans and other crops are sensitive to exposure to light pollution; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota is located along the Central Flyway and on the border of the Mississippi Flyway, where approximately 400 to 450 million birds migrate through North Dakota in the spring and fall seasons, with as many as 35 million birds in flight on peak nights. Over half of North America's breeding birds are migratory, with more than 80% migrating at night, and during migration, lights can cause birds to collide with windows or walls, causing injury, exhaustion, confusion or death;

WHEREAS, all North Dakotans are encouraged to participate in Dark Sky Week by voluntarily reducing levels of artificial light at night to protect migratory birds as they fly over our region, as well as conserve energy use and observe and enjoy the beauty of the nighttime sky.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim
April 13-20, 2026, DARK SKY WEEK in the State of North Dakota.




Kelly Armstrong
GOVERNOR

ATTEST: 
Michael Howe
SECRETARY OF STATE