



Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa RESERVATION TRIBAL COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 06-23

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the beauty and wonder of a natural night sky is a shared heritage of all humankind and inherent to the character and allure of the state of Minnesota; and experiencing starry skies can encourage interest in science, nature and art especially among young people; and

WHEREAS, the Treaty of 1854 and along with other treaties signed with tribal nations, resulted in ceded territories to the federal government, which established the State of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, our ceded territory is home to some of the last remaining pristine dark skies in the United States east of the Mississippi River, which preserves the cultural connection to the night sky for all residents who proudly call Grand Portage and Minnesota home; and

WHEREAS, light pollution has scientifically-established negative economic, environmental, safety and health consequences, while dark skies have been scientifically linked to positive health and environmental effects, and ninety-nine percent of Americans, including the residents of Grand Portage live under light pollution; and

WHEREAS, light pollution results in a waste of three billion dollars per year in the United States and contributes to diminished national energy security while reducing light pollution could save Grand Portage residents, businesses, and government thousands of dollars per year; and

WHEREAS, Voyageurs National Park, was recently designated as an International Dark Sky Park and Boundary Waters Canoe Area, was recently designated as the largest International Dark Sky Sanctuary in the world and which attract thousands of visitors each year to enjoy the dark skies they offer, bringing economic benefits to Grand Portage and Northern Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, Grand Portage is located in a major migratory flyway in which hundreds of species of birds depend on darkness for safe migration and Minnesota is home to hundreds of species of nocturnal animals and insects that depend on darkness for survival; and

WHEREAS, Grand Portage is home to the Anishinaabeg, whose traditional practices include a sustainable way of living and appreciation of the night sky;


THEREFORE, I, ROBERT DESCHAMPE, Tribal Chairman of the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, do hereby declare April 15 – 22, 2023 as


ANANGOKAA – *There is an Abundance of Stars* INTERNATIONAL DARK-SKY WEEK

in the community of Grand Portage. I ask each resident to join the Tribal Council, not only in observing and reflecting upon this important week, but also in raising awareness and support for protecting our precious dark sky resources.

CERTIFICATION

We do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly presented and adopted upon a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 silent, at a regular meeting of the Grand Portage Reservation Tribal Council, held on February 22, 2023, a quorum being present, held in Grand Portage, Minnesota.


Robert F. Deschampe, Chairman


April M. McCormick, Secretary/Treasurer

