



April 3, 2021

Dear International Dark Sky Park Association,

On behalf of the Copper Harbor Trails Club, I would like to offer this letter of support for the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge's application to become a Dark Sky Park. We believe that the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge and the Copper Harbor area would be a perfect addition to the program. Our excellent dark skies offer visitors the opportunity to regularly glimpse the northern lights, Milky Way, meteor showers, and more.

Surrounded by Lake Superior on three sides, the undeveloped landscape surrounding the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge serves as an excellent backdrop for stargazing. We have been impressed with the efforts that have been put in to improve night sky viewing opportunities at the Lodge and look forward to seeing what they come up with next.

The Copper Harbor Trails Club maintains over 37 miles of non-motorized, human powered trails, many of which cross Keweenaw Mountain Lodge property. A big reason our visitors love hiking, mountain biking, and camping in the Copper Harbor area is the potential to see the northern lights and a far greater abundance of stars than they would back home under light-polluted skies. This designation would recognize the Lodge for its efforts and help to attract even more people keen on seeing the unmarred night.

On a personal level, I grew up about twenty minutes from one of the first International Dark Sky Parks, Cherry Springs State Park in Pennsylvania. I loved attending their astronomy events and grew to appreciate the beautiful nighttime views. The night skies here in the Keweenaw are easily comparable to Cherry Springs and are one of the reasons I came to live here. I believe that similar programs, events, and community benefits could be gleaned from accepting the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge as a Dark Sky Park.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Nathan Miller
Executive Director, Copper Harbor Trails Club
www.copperharbortrails.org