



## **KEWEENAW COMMUNITY FOREST COMPANY**

A Michigan 501(c)3  
13992 Smith Fishery Road  
Mohawk, MI 49950

April 8, 2021

Mr. John Mueller  
Keweenaw Mountain Lodge  
14252 US Highway 41  
Copper Harbor, MI 49918

### **RE: Keweenaw Mountain Lodge Dark Sky Park Application**

Dear John:

The purpose of this letter is to indicate the Keweenaw Community Forest Company (KCFC), a non-profit conservation and outdoor recreation company operating primarily in Keweenaw County, Michigan, strongly supports your application to the International Dark Sky Association for designation of the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge as a Dark Sky Park.

The major industry of Keweenaw County is tourism and there is increasing interest in conserving the dark night sky and providing safe viewing locations for visitors and residents. The Keweenaw Mountain Lodge is an ideal destination for a Dark Sky Park because it is accessible by everyone in all seasons. While Keweenaw is fortunate to have several great locations for viewing the night sky including planets, meteor showers, satellites, stars, constellations and the northern lights, several locations are only accessible on a seasonal basis.

Designating the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge as a Dark Sky Park would also enhance education opportunities for our area. In the past, conservation organizations have sponsored night sky events with astronomy professors from Michigan Technological University, but have not done so in recent years due to safety and liability concerns of the landowners. The Keweenaw Mountain Lodge is a great location for hosting educational events as well as expanding visitor opportunities.

KCFC supports your application for a Dark Sky Park at Keweenaw Mountain Lodge and looks forward to a favorable decision by the International Dark Sky Association.

Sincerely,

Gina M. Nicholas  
President, Keweenaw Community Forest Company