



Michigan Nature Association

Protecting Michigan's natural heritage since 1952

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To the International Dark Sky Association:

The Michigan Nature Association (MNA) enthusiastically endorses the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge's (KML) application for Dark Sky Park designation.

MNA is a statewide, nonprofit land trust dedicated to permanently protecting natural lands throughout the state to provide habitat for rare, threatened, and endangered species; imperiled natural communities; and unique geologic features. We have permanently protected hundreds of acres at the tip of Michigan's Keweenaw peninsula in close proximity to KLM and can attest to the singular quality and clarity of the night sky in this rugged and beautiful area.

Many of the lands we protect in the area are part of an important flyway for raptors and other migratory birds. These lands connect to a larger network of conservation lands held by both public and private entities, contributing to important wildlife corridors for a number of species. We know the importance of dark skies for wildlife movement and migration, and we applaud KML for working to not only manage and limit light pollution but to also pursue Dark Sky Park designation.

It is exciting to know that KML will provide sky watching programs and events that celebrate dark skies; educate about the negative impacts of light pollution on birds, wildlife, and people; and provide access for thousands to a wondrous natural resource that is becoming increasingly difficult to find—a truly dark sky.

We hope you will give KML's application your most serious consideration.

Thank you,

Julie Stoneman

Julie Stoneman
Director of Outreach and Education