



April 19, 2021

To the International Dark Sky Association:

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge's application for International Dark-Sky Park designation.

Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula is renowned for its incredible outdoor amenities and attracts visitors from all over the world seeking to connect with nature and participate in outdoor recreation. Because of the Keweenaw's northern geography and low levels of ambient light pollution, dark sky viewing (particularly of the Aurora Borealis) is a popular activity for those drawn to the region, including photographers, star-chasers, campers, and lay travelers. Creating a certified Dark-Sky park would build upon and amplify these activities for visitors.

Tourism is a critical component of the Keweenaw economy, and the park's creation will add to the existing visitor economy supporting more than 70% of employment in Keweenaw County. Keweenaw County includes nationally and internationally recognized attractions such as Isle Royale National Park, the Copper Harbor Mountain Bike Trails (IMBA Silver Level Ride Center) and Mount Bohemia Resort. Additionally, the County is home to numerous sites allowing visitors to experience the Great Outdoors year-round. The Keweenaw Mountain Lodge, located in Copper Harbor, is also a historic attraction and its ownership's philosophy of community partnership and public access to outdoor recreation make it a fantastic location for dark sky viewing.

Creating a certified Dark-Sky park at the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge would build upon the region's outdoor assets *and* help preserve one of the area's most precious characteristics: access to breathtaking dark-sky viewing. I strongly support International Dark-Sky designation for the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge, Copper Harbor, Michigan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Lorenz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "D" and "L".

Dave Lorenz, Vice President  
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