*WHEREAS, the aesthetic beauty and wonder of a natural night sky is a shared heritage of all humankind; and*

*WHEREAS, the experience of standing under a starry night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, encouraging a growing interest in science and nature, particularly among young people and visitors from outside the local communities.; and*

*WHEREAS, light pollution has scientifically established economic and environmental consequences, which result in significant impacts on the ecology and human health of all communities; and 80 percent of the world’s population, including most people in Weber County, lives under a dome of light pollution and may never experience the visual wonder of living under a dark sky; and*

*WHEREAS, light pollution represents a waste of natural resources amounting to roughly $3 billion per year of wasted energy in the United States and contributes to diminished energy security; and*

*WHEREAS, Weber County is home to North Fork Park, the 21st International Dark Sky Park. North Fork Park is a destination for people who seek out the best, darkest skies. Astronomers and local organizations host star parties, eclipse viewing, and other dark sky events that draw locals and tourists to North Fork Park, and*

*WHEREAS, astrotourism not only provides an awe-inspiring experience but also brings significant economic benefits to Weber County. By attracting stargazers and astronomy enthusiasts, dark skies in Weber County boost local tourism, encourage longer stays, and increase spending in communities near North Fork Park. Additionally, astrotourism promotes environmental awareness and conservation efforts, ensuring that future generations can continue to enjoy the beauty of the night sky, and*

*WHEREAS, North Fork Park is home to dozens of nocturnal wildlife species—including several species of bats, owls, and rodents such as mice and voles —and these species rely on undisturbed night environments to hunt, mate, and thrive; and*

*WHEREAS, DarkSky International, the globally recognized authority on light pollution, recognizes International Dark-Sky Week to raise awareness of the effects of light pollution, provide free education, resources, and solutions to the public, and encourage the protection of and enjoyment of dark skies and responsible outdoor lighting.*

Now, Therefore, The Weber County Commissioners, do hereby declare April 21 – 28, 2025 as INTERNATIONAL DARK-SKY WEEK in Weber County, Utah and ask each resident to join us not only in observing and pondering upon this important week but also in raising awareness and support for protecting our precious dark sky as a resource.

Dated this 15th day of April 2025

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Sharon A. Bolos, Chair Gage Froerer, Vice Chair James H. “Jim” Harvey