

RESOLUTION 17-19

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION IN SUPPORT OF THE INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE AND
INDIANA DUNES STATE PARK REQUEST TO BE DESIGNATED AS A DARK SKY PARK BY
THE INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY ASSOCIATION**

September 21, 2017

WHEREAS, in 2011 the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, being designated the Council of Governments, representing all local governments in the region has established a comprehensive planning process including the three domains of environmental, economic development and transportation planning; and

WHEREAS, efforts to create and preserve the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore began in 1899 and legislation established the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in 1966; and

WHEREAS, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore's unique 15,000 acres supports more than 1,400 species of native flora and 936 species of fauna requiring a healthy nocturnal environment, thereby ranking it third in diversity among all 52 National Park Service sites; and

WHEREAS, the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is home to endangered species of the Piping Plover, the Karner Blue butterfly, and

WHEREAS, the Indiana Dunes State Park is public land, accessible to the public, and is legally protected for scientific, natural, educational, cultural, and public enjoyment purposes, where the core area provides an exceptional dark sky resource, relative to the communities and cities that surround it, and

WHEREAS, the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission adopted the 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan in 2011, which includes as its goals protection of environmentally sensitive areas and important ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that artificial light, particularly at night can have significant impacts on life sustaining behavior of many species of animals that are critical to these ecosystems, including migratory birds; and

WHEREAS, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and Indiana Dunes State Park are critical feeding and resting points for migratory birds; which also draws economic development and tourism investments in Northwest Indiana Communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northwestern Regional Planning Commission adopts this resolution of support for the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and Indiana Dunes State Park to be designated as a Dark Sky Park by the International Dark Sky Association.

Duly adopted by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission this 21st day of September, 2017.



Michael G. Griffin
Chairman

ATTEST:



Diane Noll
Secretary