



Pledge

Texas Hill Country Night Sky Co-Op

Whereas, the Texas Hill Country is widely acknowledged for its scenic beauty, diverse ecosystems, and rich cultural heritage; and

Whereas, the starry nighttime sky above the Hill Country is a rich natural resource to be enjoyed by all Hill Country residents and visitors alike; and

Whereas, the Hill Country night skies, long enjoyed by our predecessors, are threatened by ever increasing numbers of outdoor lighting fixtures that shine up into the sky rather than exclusively downward, thus contributing to light pollution and a continuing degradation of the nighttime skies; and

Whereas, without the cooperative efforts of Hill Country residents, businesses, and governmental entities, the stars gracing the Hill Country's nighttime skies will grow ever dimmer, even to the point of disappearance.

I (we), _____, do hereby pledge that I will practice sound outdoor lighting management with the goal of eliminating light escaping over the horizon from outdoor light fixtures on my property. I will do my part to protect and preserve the treasured natural wonder that is the Hill Country's starry nighttime skies.

To affect this pledge:

- **I will ensure that none of my outdoor lights shine upwards or outwards into the nighttime sky.** I will ensure that no light from fixtures on my property escapes above the horizon to add to the sky glow that is dimming our view of the stars.
- **I will ensure that the source of my outdoor illumination cannot be seen from any other property.** I will be considerate of my neighbors, near and far, and not permit my light to trespass onto the property of others. No one off my property will be able to see the bulb or any bright reflector section in any of my lighting fixtures. I will consider whether or not bright lights from within structures on my property contribute substantively to light trespass and will fix them if they do. By eliminating light trespass, I will not only be saving the nighttime sky, I will also be eliminating a possible source of irritation for my neighbors as well as eliminating a potential source of dangerous glare.
- **I will use outdoor lighting only when absolutely needed.** Except for subtle decorative lighting, I will turn off all lights when there is no one there to use

them. I will use timers and/or motion detectors on my outdoor lighting as much as practical.

- **I will use only the amount light that is required to get the job done.** I will reduce the wattage of my outdoor lighting to levels that provide adequate lighting for nighttime activities, while being careful not to overlight the area. Not only will I save money through reduced electrical usage, I will reduce the amount of glare on my property. By reducing the contrast between my lighted areas and the dark shadows, I will improve nighttime visibility and make my property safer.

By voluntarily pledging to be respectful of the Hill Country's nighttime sky, I am joining other Hill Country residents, land owners, businesses, and governmental entities, large and small, in helping preserve this treasured natural resource.

Signed: _____ Date: _____



Learn more about Hill Country efforts to protect our starry skies at www.hillcountrynightskies.org and/or www.hillcountrynightskycoop.org , both hosted by the Hill Country Alliance www.hillcountryalliance.org.