

To:

Hawboernes Forening, Lildstrand, Harebakkevej 1, Lildstrand, DK-7741 Frøstrup

Date: 15 August 2022

Letter of Support – Dark Sky Park Thy

Hawboernes Forening and a number of stakeholders wish to obtain certification as Dark Sky Park Thy. The process was launched in 2018, proposed area became approved by the IDA 2019, and light measurements 2021-2022 have proved very satisfactory. The process is therefore well-established.

Destination Nordvestkysten holds the responsibility for developing Coastal Tourism along the Danish Northwest Sea coast and we aim to promote progress in the Danish Coastal Tourism sector. We collaborate closely with local, regional and national stakeholders, such as, but not limited to, municipalities, key private stakeholders, commercial entities as well as public national tourism organizations.

We focus on five main tasks; Destination marketing, product development, hospitality, activation of the shoulder seasons and securing political support. The development of new attractions – as e.g. the Dark Sky Park Thy - and signature experiences capable of attracting international attention is vital to ensure the needed quality boost in the Danish Coastal Tourism industry.

So far, Denmark has only one certified Dark Sky Park: Møn-Nyord, two small islands situated in the Baltic in the south-easterly corner of Denmark. Situated in the direct opposite north-westerly corner of Denmark and in a quite different landscape, the Dark Sky Park Thy will utilize local nature potentials and facilities and add a new dimension to the experience of the famous magnificent, untamed nature in Thy.

However, a Dark Sky Park Thy will be of significance not only locally but also regionally, even nationally and internationally, providing tourists' with yet another great and sustainable experience in the landscape of Thy, Denmark's greatest wilderness and homeland of the famous Nationalpark Thy.

Offering a breathtaking experience during the long autumn and winter darkness, Dark Sky Park Thy will attract tourists during low-seasons and thus be of valuable benefit to the tourist trade.

Tourists are becoming more and more conscious of the need for sustainability. Apart from providing visitors with an ever memorable experience of the dark of night, the Milky Way and the myriad of stars, a Dark Sky Park also puts focus on nature, biodiversity, human health and consequences of light pollution, thus stimulating curiosity and awareness, no matter if you are an adult or a child.

For these reasons Destination Nordvestkysten fully supports the project and is looking forward to be able to advertise possibilities of nightly visits to a certified Dark Sky Park Thy in the northern part of Denmark.

On behalf of Destination Nordvestkysten

Peter Krusborg, CEO

