



May 5, 2023

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE JOING STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND
NATURAL RESOURCES IN OPPOSITION TO LD 1845**

An Act to Regulate Outdoor Lighting

Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. My name is Dirk Gouwens and I am the Executive Director of the Ski Maine Association and I live in New Portland, Maine.

Ski areas in Maine have an annual economic impact of nearly \$500 million and they employ roughly 5000 Maine workers each year. They are the backbone of their rural communities. Two of our ski areas are the second largest employers in their county.

The bill before you would have a devastating effect on a large number of our ski areas who depend upon night skiing as a major source of income. One of our ski areas has the most available night skiing in all of New England. Many of our ski areas do not open for business until the afternoon so they can stay open late at night when people get out of work and students are released from schools.

Ski areas have very specific rules on how to apply lighting to ski slopes. This is clearly outlined in ANSI/IES RP-6-20. There are specific guidelines for the amount of available Lux, longitudinal spacing and the need to aim luminaires in a way that minimize white-out and glare and in some cases create shadows for increased awareness of terrain variations and in other cases decrease shadows to assist with visibility.

The requirements of this bill would not allow ski areas to follow established ANSI guidelines as it requires all lighting to be "Shielded".

1.F "Shielded" means, with respect to an outdoor lighting fixture, that a shield or other device has been placed on the fixture that ensures that light emitted from the fixture is projected below a horizontal plane running through a point immediately above the emitting light, as specified by the department by rule.

Ski areas need to align luminaries so that they provide the best possible visibility at night for skiers which in almost all cases requires the lighting to be aimed at angles to the ski slope to meet the requirements of ANSI/IES RP-6-20. They cannot be "Shielded".

In addition, ski areas with night lighting utilize these lights for the health and safety of its employees even after skiing has shut down for the night. Ski areas have full crew of employees who work overnight preparing the slopes for the next day's guests. This

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requires grooming with large, potentially dangerous machinery and also making snow. The process of making snow can be extremely dangerous. Snowmakers work in extreme cold on slippery surfaces with large, complicated machinery that requires connections to air and water under extremely high pressure. Doing all this in the dark makes the process even more dangerous.

I urge you to vote “Ought Not To Pass” on this bill so we can continue to have a safe and robust ski industry in the state of Maine.

Items from ANSI/IES RP-6-20 specific to lighting of ski slopes.

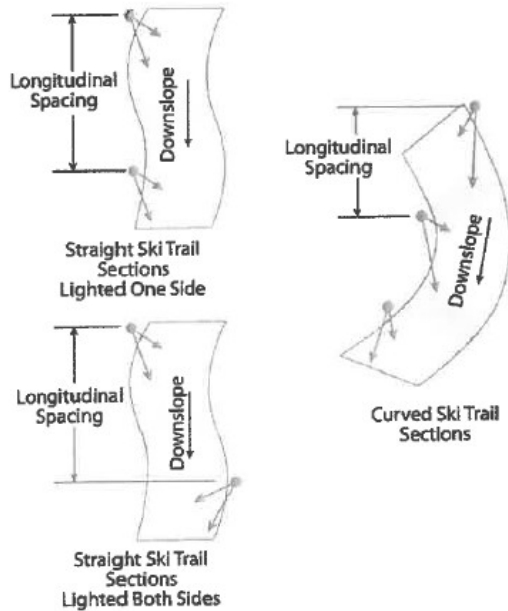


Figure 6-41. Suggested light pole locations for downhill skiing. (© Illuminating Engineering Society)

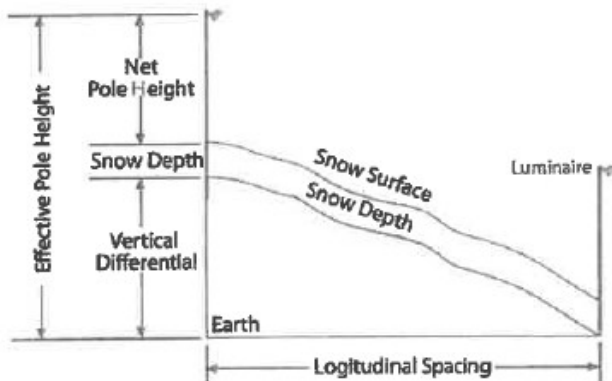


Figure 6-42. Effective pole height for skiing. (© Illuminating Engineering Society)