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To: Senator Brenner
Representative Gramlich
Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
From: Becky Smith, Director of Government and Community Relations
Re: Statement neither for nor against LD 1845, *An Act to Regulate Outdoor Lighting*
Date: May 8, 2023

Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, please accept this statement regarding LD 1845, *An Act to Regulate Outdoor Lighting*.

It is the opinion of our General Counsel's office that this bill would apply to MCCS and our campuses. However, the Maine Community College System is not taking a position on this bill. We would like to note that if this bill moves forward, we anticipate a financial impact on our colleges although the costs have yet to be determined.

In preparation for this hearing, we surveyed each of our campuses to determine if they would be impacted by these new regulations and prohibitions.

As you likely know, we illuminate our campuses to assure the safety of our students and staff as they walk from their residence halls, classes and cars. We feel very strongly that the safety of our students comes first and well-lit campuses are instrumental in our security plans. Having said that, we do not believe that the regulations and prohibitions in this bill will impact our ability to light our campuses. Most of the lights on our campuses already meet these requirements. We would, however need to replace some lighting on a very compressed timeline.

We do still have lighting fixtures outfitted with mercury vapor bulbs. However, it was already our intent to upgrade those liare to LED bulbs when they were due to be replaced. Similarly, most of our lights are shielded and pointed down. We do have a few where the shields are either not effective, or the lights are not shielded. Again, we plan to upgrade these lights when resources allow.

As always, we appreciate the ability to replace equipment on our campuses on our own timeline—rather than dispose of working light fixtures and incur a cost not currently accounted for in our budgets for next fall.

Thank you.