

# Manufacturers Association of Maine

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08 May 2023

Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, we offer this testimony in opposition of LD 1845, An Act to Regulate Outdoor Lighting.

The Manufacturers Association of Maine (MAME) is a non-partisan 501(c)6 non-profit grounded in service to its membership, providing a network of resources designed to support the strategic business growth needs of Maine manufacturing entrepreneurs. Maine's manufacturing businesses are diverse, employing almost 60,000 individuals in military and defense, aerospace, metal fabrication, paper, boat building, semi-conductor, wood products, aquaculture and biotech, medical device, composites, and bioplastics, as well as the food and beverage industries. These businesses represent almost 10% of Maine's annual GDP and 14.5% of all the wages paid in the state on a weekly basis. MAME's mission is to help manufacturing grow and succeed and supports Maine's development of future manufacturing assets through a variety of programs.

The membership of the Association is diverse in size, scope and hours of operation. Some of our members are small and operate only during traditional business hours while others are large and run 24 hours a day. While this bill will likely impact all members, it will absolutely affect our members with larger facilities or longer operational hours or those businesses who are mandated by law or regulation to use certain types of lighting.

*MAME\_LD 1214 testimony 042623*

33 McAlister Farm Road, Ste. 102  
Portland, ME 04103  
207.747.4406

87 Winthrop Street  
Augusta, ME 04330  
[www.mainemfg.com](http://www.mainemfg.com)



MAME members use outdoor lighting for a number of reasons. Some may be aesthetic or decorative, but more likely those reasons are related to safety or security. Well-placed lighting can deter theft or other nefarious actions, while at the same time providing a level of comfort for patrons or employees entering and exiting the property or facility. Trip and fall accidents can be reduced with well-lit walkways, and eliminating dark areas around the property discourages criminal activity.

Proper illumination can also reduce workplace accidents. Many of our members utilize outdoor space as part of their manufacturing operations. Often forklifts or heavy equipment are used, and a poorly lit space, be it indoors or out, can pose extreme safety issues; so failure to utilize proper lighting can put employees at greater risk of accidents or collisions.

For the reasons above, it is extremely important that businesses are allowed to use the lighting that meets their needs, and we ask that you vote ONTP on LD 1845.

