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LD 348

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From Patty Barber Hiram Maine

I am writing in support of LD 348 Resolve to Study the Effects of High Intensity Headlights on Drivers

Thank you to the sponsors for spearheading this bill!! This addresses such a serious safety and health issue-the new headlights are severely blinding -both for oncoming cars and for cars following you while driving at night.

I find that I have to look away from oncoming cars as they approach me. That cannot be a safe way to drive! It then takes a few minutes before my vision readjusts to be able to see the road again, that is until the next car approaches.

A similar situation occurs when a car is behind me. The headlights cause such a glare in both the rearview and the side mirrors that I am constantly trying to adjust my mirrors to minimize the reflection. This certainly takes away from my focus on the road ahead.

It has become so bad, that I dread to drive at night, which is a near impossible task to avoid when one has to commute in Maine in the dark fall and winter seasons.

Incandescent lights both for home and vehicles have been banned from the US under a misguided notion that LED lights are better for people and energy use. I have found this to be problematic.

Personally I have found that LED lights in the home are detrimental to my vision and cause me headaches. The glare is uncomfortable, even for the so called 'warmer' versions. The fact that I can't just go to the store and buy incandescent bulbs to be able to maximize my comfort and health is discerning. I'm not sure who decided incandescent bulbs should be outlawed, but whoever that was took away my ability to choose what works best for me.

I assume we are dealing with the same issue with headlights, that they are now mandated to all be LEDs. Or perhaps there are other reasons the current headlights are so intrusive and detrimental to our vision and our ability to drive safely.

This study will answer many of those questions, and hopefully outline fixes that alleviate the problems. Please support this initiative to study these headlights. (And support the return of incandescent light bulbs to Maine!)

Patty Barber