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I am for this legislation. I moved from Indiana in February for a number of reasons, but one was the beauty and peace that comes with proximity to healthy natural spaces.

I come to you today with a caution of what can happen when protections are not in place. We already know the effects of irresponsible outdoor lighting on migrating species, and disruptions to human health among other negative effects. I'm not here to reiterate those facts. I'm here to tell a story from the perspective of communities that truly lost something and didn't realize until it was too late. My homestead in Indiana was located in one of the darkest areas in the state. We enjoyed clear views of the Milky Way and hard-to-see other astronomical events with our bare eyes out there. Over a decade, it faded and faded, masked by the sky glow from the quickly growing downtown Lafayette Indiana and Purdue University areas. They were building without even knowing the lighting was adding up. They couldn't tell at the moment because it's small changes, just one light bulb or fixture choice at a time. There was a growing movement to do something similar to the proposed bill but it never gained traction. It's because you don't notice the loss until it's gone. One day you look out the window and notice an ugly yellow hue where a beautiful picturesque view used to be. We have an opportunity to preserve the night sky for generations here. Don't let my story become the truth here as it already has for countless other rural communities. Please vote to pass this.