

LD 1934 Outdoor lighting

Hello

My name is Nancy Hathaway, president and co-founder of **Dark Sky Maine**, a non-profit with the mission of preserving Maine's Dark Sky Heritage.

My great grandfather sailed up the Kennebec River when the water was so pure that the ice was transported all the way to India.

My father grew up swimming in the Kennebec.

I grew up in the 50s/60s with the horrid smell of sulfur from the mills and with the water toxic in the Kennebec.

Just recently sturgeon have returned to the river. It took years to clean up the air and water pollution.

Today, we are here to discuss a pollution that is new to some – light pollution.

The difference between water, air and light pollution is that light pollution can be dealt with immediately. We do not need to wait 20 years. We can change the bulbs! We can put shields on over the lights.

After being instrumental in the international designation of the Dark Sky Sanctuary at Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, I thought why stop here, why not preserve the dark skies of the whole state of Maine. That was 2019. People all over the state come to Dark Sky Maine with questions, such as, 'what can we do about the lights of the school across the way?', and 95% of the people who we talk with, say, "Oh, my neighbor's light" and many talk of the new light shining brighter than ever into their bedroom window. Many people come to us asking for help.

LUPC passed new lighting regulations in the UTs. 10.2 million acres.

The town that I now live in, Surry on the Blue Hill Peninsula has a lighting ordinance and is active in educating residents about light pollution. The town hosts a Star Party on the beach each summer. With an astronomy educator using telescopes, we hear the oos and ahs coming from folks as they view Saturn and its rings for the first time. People move to Surry because it has dark skies.

Dark skies are not only good for residents but for Astro-tourists! I know groups of astronomers who come to Maine because the skies are darker here. The dark night skies are needed for migrating birds, turtles, moth and bees as pollinators. Human health is affected by lights especially while sleeping. The AMA reports there is a relationship to increased breast cancer when sleeping with LED light coming into the window of the bedroom.

A common misconception is that brighter lights are safer—**BRIGHTER LIGHTS DO NOT PROVIDE MORE SAFETY!** You can view a Youtube video showing a man coming out of his back door into the yard with a bright light on while someone is coming into the yard through a side gate. The light is so bright the man coming through the gate cannot be seen; when the light is of less kelvins (temperature of the bulb), less bright, the man coming through the gate can be seen.

Ambulance drivers tell us that under high temperature LED lights, they cannot not see clearly signs of distress in people skin.

Three things are important:

#1 Shield over the light so it doesn't go into the night sky which is wasted light and costing taxpayers millions as well as the extra pollution for fossil fuels making more energy for wasteful lights.

#2 Bulb is placed above the plane of the shield

#3 Bulb is 2700 kelvins in temperature NOT over 3,000

Examples: Pat's Pizza in Ellsworth, Bowdoin College is being honored for their outdoor lighting. Belgrade Lakes has dark sky lighting along the main road in town.

Promoting Responsible Outdoor Lighting is a healthy way to bring more tourists to Maine, healthy for animals, plants, and... human beings.

Please view our film--*Defending the Dark*--about preserving Maine's Night Sky on our website, **DarkSkyMaine.com**

Sincerely,

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