

Senator Baldacci

Representative Salisbury

Members of the State and Local Government Committee

Re: LD 1934, An Act to Promote Responsible Outdoor Lighting

My name is Debra Hart and I am a resident of Manchester, Maine. I represent the Dirigo Electric Cooperative, which are Maine's consumer-owned electric utilities (Houlton Water Co., Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative, Kennebunk Light & Power District, Isle Au Haut, Madison Electric Works, Brunswick Landing, Fox Island Electric Cooperative. We are in opposition to LD 1934 based on the potential costs to the ratepayers of the COUs from increased costs relative to the requirements that will be imposed by this legislation.

As an example, in the case of Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative, they serve 79 towns in its service territory. If every town had its own standards for lighting, the cost to stock and supply many different lights would be extreme. In addition, some of the lighting requirements in the legislation would be insufficient to emit the necessary lighting in specific areas that could jeopardize public safety. Some manufacturers of lights do not provide a shield that would 'fully shield' the light.

It is not clear to us if this would apply to lighting provided by a consumer-owned utility, but if it does, we would respectfully ask that the COUs be exempted from the legislation.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.