



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



MELANIE LOYZIM
COMMISSIONER

TESTIMONY OF
Rob Wood, Director of the Bureau of Land Resources
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

SPEAKING IN OPPOSITION TO L.D. 1845
AN ACT TO REGULATE OUTDOOR LIGHTING

SPONSORED BY REP. OSHER

BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DATE OF HEARING:

MAY 8, 2023

Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich, and members of the Committee, I am Rob Wood, Director of the Bureau of Land Resources at the Department of Environmental Protection, speaking in opposition to L.D. 1845.

This Department is opposed to L.D. 1845 because it would require substantial staff capacity for enforcement and compliance activities that we do not currently have. Under the provisions of the bill, any person could file a complaint that their neighbor has

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installed a noncompliant lighting fixture, or illuminated a noncompliant lighting fixture at night, in a municipality that has not adopted an ordinance meeting the standards proposed in the bill, and the Department would be obligated to investigate that complaint and to carry out enforcement actions if warranted. We estimate this would require 2-3 additional staff members in each regional office, for a total of 8-12 additional staff statewide.

The Department would like to emphasize that we are not opposed to dark skies. In preparing for this hearing, we had many conversations among staff members who find great enjoyment in being under dark skies and have a profound appreciation for them and the fact that we can view them in many parts of Maine. However, put simply, L.D. 1845 is not workable for the DEP without a large fiscal note and allocation of additional staff positions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. I am available to answer questions of the Committee, both now and at work session.