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Testimony on
L.D. 348, "Resolve, to Study the Effect of High-intensity Headlights on Drivers"

Presented by
Representative Richard H. Campbell
District 19

Transportation Committee
Friday, March 28, 2025

Good morning, Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation:

I am State Representative Richard H. Campbell, and I proudly represent District 19, Eddington, Holden, and Orrington. It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to present L.D. 348, "**Resolve, to Study the Effect of High-intensity Headlights on Drivers.**"

It has been brought to my attention, and I have personally experienced, the new high intensity (HI) headlights as a hazard to the driving public.

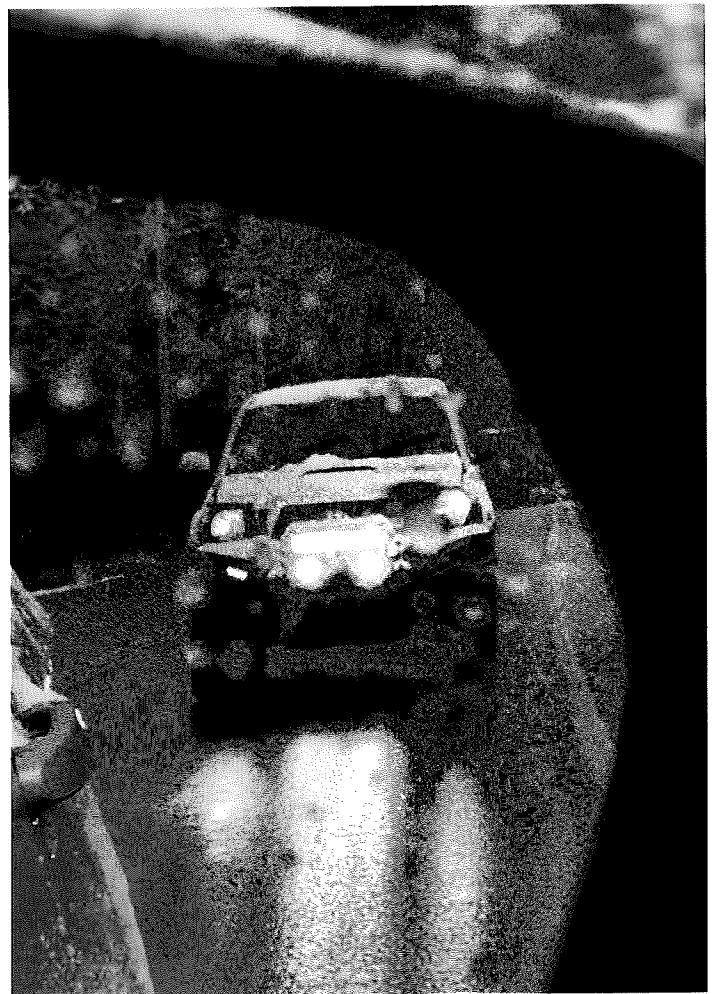
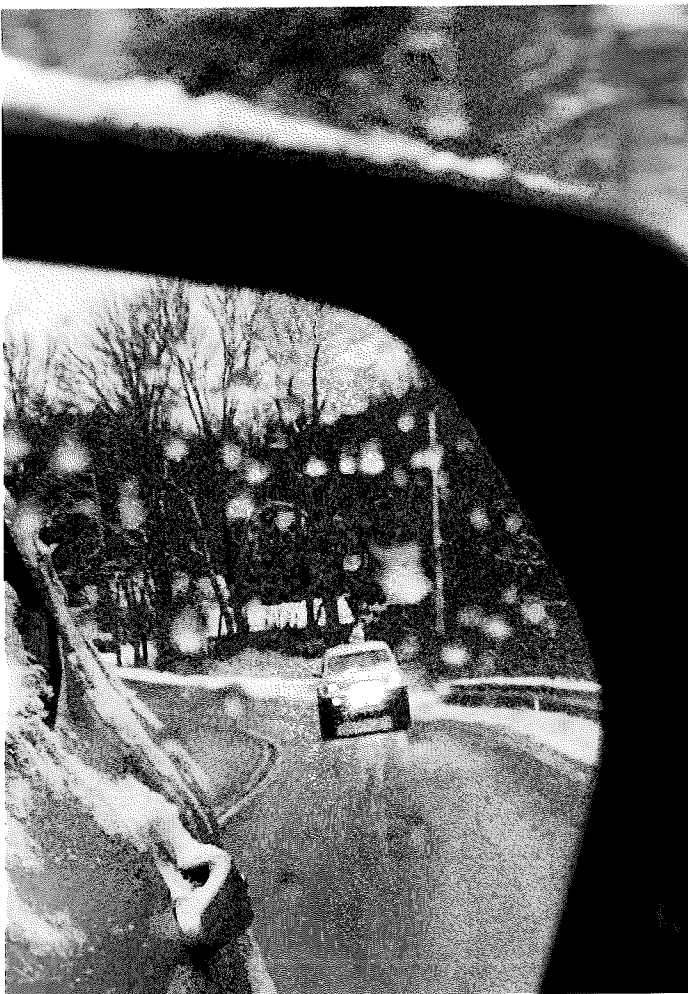
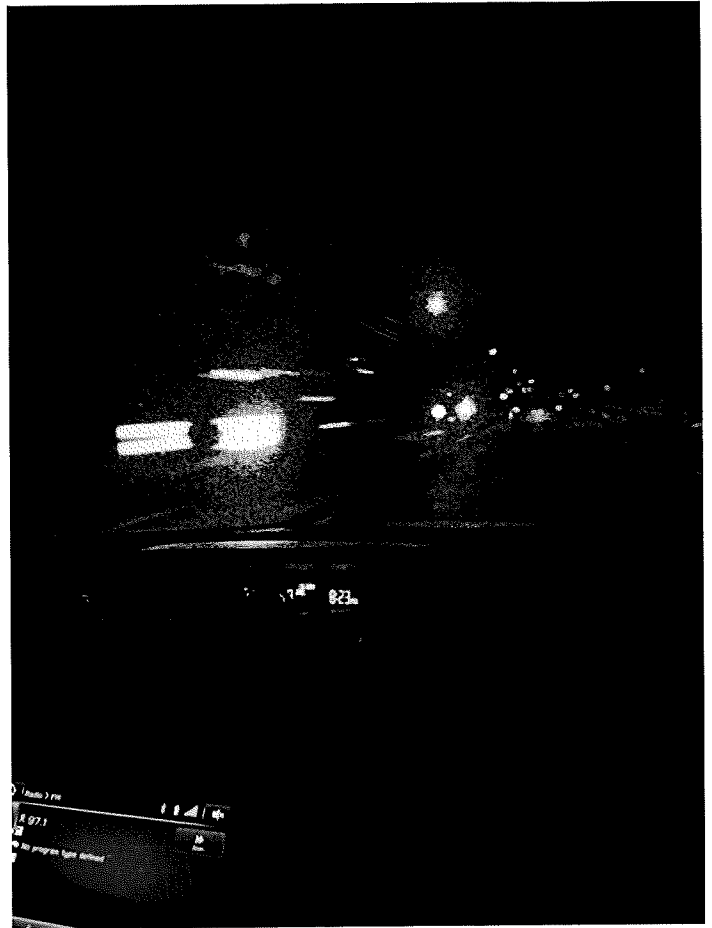
I raised this concern during the Maine auto dealers legislative meeting of probably 20 dealers, one of which stated, "They are doing something about them in Europe!" My question is, "Why not in the United States?"

Oncoming vehicles, vehicles approaching from the rear, large pickups, and regular SUVs are the worst! When in an outside corner, and the inside corner vehicle has HI lights, they truly obstruct the vision of the other drivers! When taking a left off a main road or street, and the vehicle at the stop sign is larger than the turning vehicle, one can be so blinded that you cannot see your lane curb cut!

The photos show the difference between regular headlights and HI lights. Even the small pickup at 10:30 a.m. with an aftermarket light bar blinds drivers from the rear. The enhanced light for the driver transfers the danger to the many who deal with the devastating glare.

I have no interest in creating problems for Maine auto dealers, but a Maine concern passed on to the manufactures may be the message needed to address this hazard.

Thank you for the opportunity to have this bill before you, and my hope is the wisdom of the Committee will address this major driving issue.



DONE: RE: LD 348

March 28, 2025

The recent proliferation of high-intensity bluish white headlights on vehicles, especially trucks, had made it very difficult, if not dangerous, for me to drive at night. And I am not alone. The brilliant brightness not only hurts my eyes, but creates such a radiant glare that it obliterates the view of not only the other lane, but also my driving lane and beyond. There is no way I would be able to see another vehicle, judge the distance or even see an animal or person near or in the road. Having cataracts and being blinded by the bright blue-white high beams creates this hazardous driving situation. Many folks are unable to have corrective surgery, yet continue to drive at night out of necessity. Once corrective surgery is done, the bright lights still hurt the eyes, but visibility has improved. Not everyone can afford or are willing to have the surgery. Please consider studying the use of these blue-white brights. Let's go back to the just the warm lights we have always successfully used. Thank you.