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To Members of the Committee on State and Local Government.

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Testimony in favor of LD 1934: An Act to Promote Responsible Outdoor Lighting

My name is Jacob Gerritsen and I live in Camden.

I'm an amateur astro-photographer, which involves taking images of objects in the night sky such as galaxies and nebulae. These objects are super dim and so to do this we need skies to be dark and this proposed legislation helps address this issue.

Light pollution is the unwanted presence of artificial light, primarily at night, that disrupts natural patterns and has negative impacts on wildlife, human health, and the view of the night sky. It occurs through glare, light trespass, sky glow, and clutter, and is caused by the overuse or misuse of outdoor lighting.

I myself am a victim of light trespass; my neighbor has a bright light installed near her house that spills over into my woods and causes a glare which I have had to mitigate planting tall trees strategically in a feeble attempt, especially in winter, to block her floodlights from ruining my photos.

Looking out over Camden from the top of Mt Battie light pollution is glaringly obvious, in comparison to towns in states such as Utah and N Mexico where light ordinances are in effect to support the local giant observatories.

Preserving our night sky in Maine is also one more way we can be Vacation Land for vacationers who want to come here to see the Milky Way as their light polluted cities make it impossible for them to see the night sky in all its glory. (Astro-tourism).

I appreciate the legislature taking on this issue again, after failing to do so several years ago.