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Good afternoon Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and distinguished members of the State and Local Government Committee. I'm Michael Ray, and I represent the towns of Appleton, Islesboro, Liberty, Lincolnville, Montville, Morrill and Searsmont in House District 40. I'm here to express strong support for LD 1934: An Act to Promote Responsible Outdoor Lighting.

I believe that this bill 1) does just what the title says, 2) does it without creating an undue burden on individuals or public entities that already have outdoor lighting, 3) doesn't make it harder on municipalities who would become involved in the eventual ordinance process, and 4) satisfies the spirit of "home rule" we have here in Maine.

- 1) The main reason I think this is overall a responsible approach - apart from the shared sense of responsibility we all have to each other for the appreciation of the planet and heavens - is because basically it's a data-driven, measurable solution.
- 2) Already existing lighting won't suddenly become illegal. Public entities can keep what they have until it needs replacing - basically until a bulb burns out. And then replacing it with a dimmer - but still 25% over-spec - unit.
- 3) Like some of you on this committee, and many in the Legislature, I moonlight as a municipal officer (viz, as a member of my Town's Selectboard.) And while our experience may differ in this area, I don't see this bill making it hard on municipal resources when it calls for adding a "Dark Sky" local ordinance. Since language is already provided by MOCA there's very little drafting at the local level, and so,

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perhaps apart from the expense of a town attorney to check it for legal sufficiency and consistency with existing ordinances, expenses and staff time are kept to a minimum.

- 4) Finally, I don't believe this bill infringes on local control, since like Maine's shoreland zone legislation, LD 1934 seeks to address a problem that spreads across town lines. The bill clearly defines the relationship between state and municipalities, it lets the state legislature be the referee if and when municipalities lighting practices conflict, and gives municipalities some latitude in crafting "Dark Sky" ordinances so that they fit their particular situations.

Thank you for your time today, and I will be happy to try and answer any questions.