

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO

L.D. 1845

AN ACT TO REGULATE OUTDOOR LIGHTING

Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. I am Steven Bailey, executive director of Maine School Management Association, testifying on behalf of the legislative committees of the Maine School Boards Association and Maine School Superintendents Association, in opposition to L.D. 1845.

MSSA/MSBA are both opposed to L.D. 1845. While the exact application to schools and school grounds is not exactly clear, it is anticipated that L.D. 1845 would impact lighting used for parking, school building illumination, sidewalks, and potentially lights used for evening athletic events. Cost of replacement lighting, or shields that would need to be in place if lighting were to remain on throughout the night, is of great concern to the schools and their budgets – ultimately with the impact on the local taxpayer.

Additionally, towns have ordinances that oversee outdoor lighting and these decisions should remain local.

While a good idea for the environment, perhaps a longer phase in period could be established so that as replacements are put in place the new requirements can be met. Additionally, if this bill can be tied to an Efficiency Maine rebate program perhaps a quicker implementation could be seen.

As presented, MSSA and MSBA urge an ONTP vote by the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.