



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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May 8, 2023

**Testimony of Meghan Russo
Maine Department of Transportation
Before the 131st Legislature, Joint Standing Committee Environment and Natural
Resources**

In Opposition to LD 1845

An Act to Regulate Outdoor Lighting

Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, I am Meghan Russo, Manager of Legislative and Constituent Services for MaineDOT. MaineDOT submits this legislation in opposition to LD 1845, *An Act to Regulate Outdoor Lighting*.

This bill seeks to prohibit outdoor lighting fixtures that are not shielded to direct light downward. While this bill exempts lighting on I-95, MaineDOT currently installs fixtures on all roadways within our jurisdiction that would be compliant with the bill's requirements, in accordance with 23 MRSA §708. However, MaineDOT's offices in Augusta, region offices, and our many maintenance facilities across the state would be impacted by this legislation. These facilities are lit in a way to protect MaineDOT employees, many who are deemed essential, and are required to report to work at all hours of the day and night. MaineDOT's headquarter offices here in Augusta are staffed 24 hours a day.

As drafted the provisions within LD 1845 would also negatively impact MaineDOT's contracting partners, many of whom we rely on to perform the needed projects to Maine's transportation infrastructure. MaineDOT has certain projects that require strictly night work, for the safety of our contractor and the traveling public. Restricting the available lighting mechanisms on these projects could endanger both our contractors and motorists navigating this construction zone.

Should this bill pass and MaineDOT be required to change the lighting fixtures at all of our facilities, there would be a significant cost associated with this, and therefore substantial fiscal note.

It is for these reasons that we urge the committee to vote ought not to pass on LD 1845. Thank you.