

Dear Senators and Representatives,

I write in enthusiastic support of L.D. 1934, "An Act to Promote Responsible Outdoor Lighting."
I am sorry that I cannot be with you in person.

Everyone knows that Maine is renown for its magnificent shorelines, lakes, rivers, and forests. These are the physical attributes of our beautiful state that enchant us all and draw millions of visitors to Maine.

Now, we are becoming increasingly known for our dark skies.

I serve as chair of the Town of Greenville Planning Board. Back in 2022, we overhauled our existing outdoor lighting ordinance to make it compliant with the dark skies initiative. As our work progressed on revising the ordinance, the Planning Board came to agreement on goals and standards that minimize light pollution, protect residents from unwanted light and light trespass, control glare, minimize skyglow, provide adequate light for the safe performance of outdoor tasks at night, and promote efficient and cost-effective lighting to conserve energy.

I am pleased to share with you that our revised outdoor lighting ordinance was unanimously endorsed by the Town's Select Board and subsequently ratified by the Town's voters at our June 2022 town meeting. There was not one negative question raised about the proposed ordinance. It sailed through the Select Board process and the town meeting. Just as our residents cherish our waters and forests here in Greenville, they also cherish our spectacular dark skies. And they want to keep our night skies dark!

We learned in the revision process that there is actually something known as "dark sky tourism." The Moosehead Lake region depends on its visitors for the economic stimulus they bring to our community. Although tourism dollars were not part of our thinking, it is a nice unintended consequence that our new outdoor lighting ordinance provides another reason for visitors to visit us. We also learned that the Town's budget was positively impacted by switching to energy conserving lighting for our public spaces and public ways.

I commend you for considering L.D. 1934 and urge its adoption!

With best wishes for your work,



John J. Contreni