

May 12th 2025

Isabelle Rogers - Starks, Maine

To the State and Local Government committee

Testimony in support of LD 1934, *An Act to Promote Responsible Outdoor Lighting*

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Respectable members of the State and Local Government committee, my name is Isabelle Rogers. I am a young resident of Starks and a community organizer with the Maine organization, JustME for JustUS. I am testifying in support of LD 1934, *An Act to Promote Responsible Outdoor Lighting*.

Growing up in rural Maine, I've always admired the stars, looking up and marveling at their many constellations in the night sky. Now as a young adult, I'm humbled by their vastness and realize just how lucky we are to live in a place where we are able to look up and see them at all.

Maine's increasing and irresponsible use of outdoor lighting is negatively affecting our health, natural environment and economy. This is also leading to light pollution that impacts our ability to see dark skies, and greatly limits our well being and the ability to conduct scientific research. Excess light disrupts patterns for all living things, including the natural instincts of nocturnal insects and mammals, and artificial light in our living spaces disrupts melatonin production that can lead to serious health issues. Additionally, light pollution costs taxpayers millions of dollars each year due to poorly directed public light fixtures. Mainers are actively paying for wasteful lighting practices that aren't benefiting them, the economy, or Maine's dark skies.

Passing LD 1934 would establish regulated standards for outdoor lighting for state and municipal properties by incorporating downward shielded fixtures to direct excess light, lamps with warm color temperatures, and guidelines of when lights need to be extinguished or dimmed late at night.

Night lighting is needed for a variety of safety reasons. We must shift our current inefficient lighting practices, as we need responsibly maintained lighting that benefits us all in every way. Supporting LD 1934 will apply needed standards to public spaces and provide leadership for outdoor lighting within our communities. This would be a win for everyone!

I urge you to support LD 1934, *An Act to Promote Responsible Outdoor Lighting* so that we, and future generations, may all be able to experience the greatness and wonders of the night sky.

Thank you,

Isabelle Rogers

