



# ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE

A nonprofit Federation of 270 Astronomical Societies

To promote the science of astronomy

- By fostering astronomical education;
- By providing incentives for astronomical observation and research; and
- By assisting communication among amateur astronomical societies.

Terry L. Mann, President  
8395 State Route 127  
West Manchester, Ohio 45382  
starsrus@infinet.com  
937-678-5032

Honorable Joseph L. Bruno  
Senate Majority Leader  
909 Legislative Office Bldg.  
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senator Bruno,

The Astronomical League, the nation's largest night sky organization with over 16,000 members, enthusiastically supports this bill and encourages its passage.

In these times of escalating energy costs, we all seek ways to lower our total energy bills. One proven, effective method lies before us now: the reduction of inefficient, excessive, and wasteful nighttime outdoor lighting.

**This Act saves money on many fronts.**

It requires new public and commercial lighting to be fully shielded, with a few well-crafted exceptions. Simply directing outdoor lighting downward puts the light where it is needed and allows the use of lower wattage bulbs. Obviously, this alone conserves energy and saves money.

It addresses obtrusive lighting and light trespass. Citizens appreciate not having annoying light from neighboring properties shine into their homes.

It provides public education for the value of wise outdoor lighting. Not everyone is aware of how they can save money through the use of appropriate outdoor lighting. This bill gives a means to inform them.

It curtails dangerous blinding glare, a problem that especially afflicts our older citizens while still recognizing important safety concerns. Glare adversely affects our ability to see into the shadows.

It identifies locations for state dark sky preserves. Today, New York has a few dark regions left where its citizens enjoy the night sky. Without this bill, tomorrow, it might have none.

It enhances the nighttime environment for all. As researchers investigate the value of dark hours, the more they discover how important the night really is to the well-being of both humans and wildlife.

**The Healthy, Safe, and Energy Efficient Outdoor Lighting Act enhances the quality of life for ALL citizens.**

Very respectfully,

Terry L. Mann