

## Group for the South Fork



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### **LETTER IN SUPPORT OF STATE LEGISLATION: A7438/S4364**

On behalf of the Group for the South For, a leading environmental organization representing 3500 individuals, businesses and households in eastern Long Island, we are writing in support of the Healthy, Safe, and Energy Efficient Outdoor Lighting Act.

Light pollution is defined as outdoor lighting that is misdirected, unshielded, or excessive. Light pollution is wasteful of energy dollars (nationally estimated at \$2.5 billion annually), and increases air and water pollution from burning fossil fuels, affecting the health and well being of plants and animals, including humans. Most birds migrate at night, navigating by the stars, and get blinded by bright lights. The natural biological rhythms of plants are disrupted by artificial light. Trees grow unnaturally and die early. Excessive nighttime lighting creates glare and intrudes on people's privacy. Wasteful "up" lights illuminate moisture and particles in the atmosphere, creating "skyglow", destroying our ability to view all the stars.

If enacted, this "light pollution" law would require the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation to promote the adoption of local lighting regulations across the state. The law will also encourage public education regarding this issue. The commissioner could further identify and propose restrictions for "dark areas" across the state to promote astronomical observation as well as nocturnal benefits for flora and fauna.

Please take the time to pass this important legislation. We believe the proposed law will promote energy conservation statewide and provide a healthier nighttime environment for plants, animals, and people. As residents of eastern Long Island, we value our star-filled night skies and encourage statewide support of this issue.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

Robert S. DeLuca  
President