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May 20, 2009

President
Robert S. DeLuca

Honorable Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal
821 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12248

Chairman
William S. McChesney, Jr.

Re: Statement of Support - A.07281 and S.02714

Vice Chairman
Ann Colley

An Act to amend the environmental conservation law and the public service law, in relation to enacting the healthy, safe and energy efficient outdoor lighting act.

Board Members
Harris A. Barer
Katherine Leahy Birch
W. Marco Birch
Wilhelmus B. Bryan
Mark Burchill
Andrew Goldstein
Gregory Hoogkamp
Ronald S. Lauder
Sandra R. Meyer
Christopher Pia
Peter Schellbach
John Shea
John C. Waddell
Mary Walker

Group for the East End lends its strong support to Assembly Bill 7281 and Senate Bill 2714, pertaining to enacting a healthy, safe and energy efficient outdoor lighting act.

Group for the East End is eastern Long Island's largest professionally staffed environmental advocacy and education organization. Since 1972, we have represented the conservation and community planning interests of some 2,000 member-households, businesses and individuals from across our region.

Light pollution is defined as outdoor lighting that is misdirected, unshielded or excessive. Light pollution is wasteful (costing the U.S. more than \$2 billion a year) and contributes to pollution by the burning of fossil fuels affecting the health and well being of plants and animals, including humans. Additionally, it has been documented that the natural biological rhythms of plants and particularly bird species are disrupted by artificial light thus negatively impacting vital life functions of these species.

Excessive nighttime lighting often creates "skyglow" which can severely impede our ability to enjoy the nighttime sky.

We believe that by promoting responsible outdoor lighting practices, we can prevent unnecessary pollution, protect our natural environment and preserve the spectacular views that the nighttime sky offers. We strongly support the passage of a healthy, safe and energy efficient outdoor lighting act.

Thank you for taking the time to review our comments. Please contact me if you have any questions or comments. I can be reached at (631) 765-6450 ext. 213 or at bdeluca@eastendenvironment.org.

Sincerely,

Robert S. DeLuca
President