



International Dark-Sky Association

"... to preserve and protect the nighttime environment and our heritage of dark skies"

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May 11, 2009

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Honorable Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal
821 Legislative Office Bldg.
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Assemblywoman Rosenthal,

I am writing you on behalf of the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) with members from all 50 states and more than 70 countries. We would like to stress the importance of taking action now to control light pollution, and we appreciate your efforts through Assembly Bill A7281.

Poorly designed and/or improperly applied outdoor lighting and excessive lighting levels are the main cause of light pollution, and this negatively impacts all of us and the natural ecosystem. In addition to causing unnecessary glare and light trespass, we estimate that such obtrusive light costs the USA more than \$2 billion a year in wasted energy and puts more than 14 million tons of carbon dioxide into our atmosphere. Rather than enhancing our nighttime environment, light pollution reduces visibility and adversely impacts wildlife as well. Medical research teams are now studying the impacts of light at night relative to melatonin suppression and its effects upon human health. There is no reason that we should we accept poorly designed and wasteful outdoor lighting.

By promoting prudent and responsible outdoor lighting practices, we can reduce energy waste, control glare and stop most of the obtrusive light trespass. Additionally, we can improve visibility and safety, enhance quality of life, and preserve the beauty of our night skies. By controlling energy waste, we save dollars and reduce atmospheric pollution. We believe that solutions to the problems of light pollution are currently available, and that everyone, including the public, benefits from these solutions. Bill A7281 is certainly a strong step in the right direction.

If we can be of any assistance in your efforts to control light pollution, please do not hesitate to contact us. Again, thank you very much for your support on this important issue.

Very Respectfully,

Christian K. Monrad, P.E., LEED AP
President of the Board, IDA

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