

International Dark-Sky Association

since 1988

"... to preserve and protect the nighttime environment and our heritage of dark skies through quality outdoor lighting."

May 22, 2007

Honorable Senator Carl L. Marcellino
812 Legislative Office Bldg.
Albany, NY 12247

Dear Senator Marcellino,

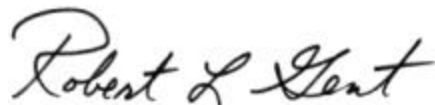
I am writing you on behalf of the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) with over 11,000 members from all 50 states and more than 70 countries. We would like to stress the importance of taking action now to control light pollution, and we appreciate your efforts through Senate Bill 4364.

Poor quality outdoor lighting is the main cause of light pollution, and it impacts all of us. In addition to causing unnecessary glare and light trespass, we estimate that such obtrusive light costs the USA more than \$10 billion a year in wasted energy and puts more than 38 million tons of carbon dioxide unnecessarily into our atmosphere. Rather than enhancing our nighttime environment, light pollution reduces visibility and adversely impacts wildlife. Medical research teams are now studying the impacts of melatonin suppression from night lighting on human health. Why should we accept all this poorly designed and wasteful outdoor lighting!

By promoting responsible outdoor lighting, we can reduce energy waste, control glare, stop most of the obtrusive light trespass, improve visibility and safety, 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.

If we can be of any assistance in reviewing S4364 or in your efforts to control light pollution, we stand ready to assist. Again, thank you very much for your support on this important issue.

Very Respectfully,



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