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June 3, 2003

Hon. Carl Marcellino  
Senator  
New York State Senate  
250 Townsend Square  
Oyster Bay, NY 11771

Dear Senator Marcellino:

We are writing in support of A.6950 / S.3003 The Healthy, Safe and Energy Efficient Outdoor Lighting Act and thank you for sponsoring this much needed piece of legislation.

Provisions of this bill will aid New Yorkers in their continuing efforts to conserve and use energy wisely. Demand resulting from misdirected, excessive, or energy inefficient outdoor lighting requires power plants to produce more electricity, causing more air pollution, which in turn creates widespread negative effects for the environment and public health.

Adherence to better lighting practices and the use of technologically advanced outdoor lighting fixtures is long overdue. Over time, new installations and replacement of outdated fixtures, as provided in the bill, will conserve energy and improve our nighttime visibility. As a result, a clear night sky in which the stars are visible, can be restored: a sight which could be enjoyed by New Yorkers throughout the State.

Municipalities can benefit from the distribution of a model comprehensive lighting ordinance, as will the residents of New York State from the distribution of an informational pamphlet by their utilities.

The recent Draft Citizens Energy Plan for Long Island, endorsed by more than 30 civic, government, environmental, health, and faith-based groups has recommended similar measures to abate light pollution.

We thank you and the co-sponsors of this important legislation and urge the New York State Legislature to adopt the bill and hope that Governor Pataki will sign it into law.

Sincerely,

Gordian Raacke  
Executive Director