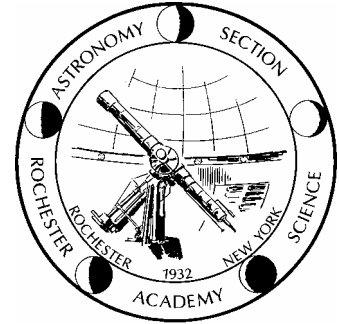


**Astronomy Section**  
*Rochester Academy of Science*  
P.O. Box 20292  
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**Memorandum in support of  
The Healthy, Safe, and Energy Efficient Outdoor Lighting Act**

A7404 / Grannis

S4474 / Marcellino

The Astronomy Section of the Rochester Academy of Science (ASRAS) is an organization of approximately 250 amateur astronomers, scientists, and lay-people serving the Greater Rochester community. Our mission is to bring astronomy and the space sciences within reach of citizens of our community through observing programs and educational outreach.

Since civilization's earliest beginnings, the beauty and wonder of the starry sky have inspired science, religion, art, literature, and the study of nature, not to mention popular culture and beliefs. Explorers have charted vast distances by the stars. And our entire nation has aspired to new heights of accomplishment by the challenge send a man to the moon.

Existing lighting practices using fixtures that spill much light upward, the growing use of outdoor lighting for decorative and security goals, as well as increased levels of lighting are blotting out the night sky. With the loss of the starry sky over most of our cities, towns, and villages, what will inspire the next generation of scientists and leaders?

In just the past few years, we have experienced noticeably brighter skies at night over our observatory in Ionia, NY. The telescope at the Rochester Museum and Science Center is ineffective in its urban location and we have been forced to move our public events farther from the population centers. This limits our ability to introduce and inspire students and the community at large to the wonders of the heavens.

A7404/S4474 will reduce the harmful effects of light pollution in New York State by mandating that the State, its agencies, and public corporations within the state use dark sky-friendly lighting. ASRAS fully supports this act and urges members of the Assembly and Senate to enact this bill and the Governor to ratify the bill.

Sincerely,

Frank Bov  
President, Astronomy Section  
Rochester Academy of Science