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The Amateur Observers' Society of NY officially endorses  
NYS Bill A7438/S4364.

May 30, 2007

For thousands of years, humans have gazed upon and studied the constellations and objects of the night sky. During the past few decades however, those patterns and impressive sights have gradually been erased due to poorly designed, inefficient and misdirected lighting fixtures that waste light by shining it up into the sky, rather than aiming such illumination down onto the ground where it is needed. Furthermore, the glare from such poorly designed fixtures is hazardous to drivers and pedestrians and gives potential criminals shadows in which to hide. Such misdirected lighting often trespasses into our windows at night, hindering our sleep and disturbing our critical day/night cycles that are necessary to the health of all living organisms.

Bill A7438/S4364 calls for the increased use of "full cut-off" lighting technology which has long been available. Such lighting aims illumination down to the ground while eliminating glare. This allows for reduced wattage bulbs leading to energy and money savings, less reliance on imported fossil fuels, reduced emissions and more attractive communities. One by-product of using common sense lighting installation will be the restoration of our night sky. LIPA, under the direction of Mr. Richard Kessel, is in the process of changing all their corporate lights to comply with this idea and will ensure that the security lights they install do not trespass onto other property.

The starry night is part of our heritage and should be protected not only for astronomers, but for humankind as a whole.

The Amateur Observers' Society of NY, a 200+ member astronomy club based on Long Island, therefore calls upon the NYS legislature to pass A7438/S4364 and for Governor Pataki to sign into law, providing NY residents with a light pollution statute similar to those already in place in six other states, including nearby Connecticut, and a growing number of countries.

Thank you for your kind attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

*Susan Rose*

Susan Rose

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