



Memorandum in Support

A. 7281 (Rosenthal)/ S. 2714 (Thompson)

Purpose: This bill amends the state environmental conservation and the public service laws to set outdoor lighting standards and to require the Department of Environmental Conservation to:

- Enact regulations for the management of outdoor night lighting;
- Ensure that the regulations are followed when state funds are used for street lighting projects;
- Work with NYSERDA to develop luminaire efficiency and lamp luminous efficacy standards;
- Develop and distribute a pamphlet containing information regarding outdoor lighting and the law; and,
- Develop a model comprehensive outdoor lighting ordinance.

The public service commission is directed to require that every electric corporation or municipality providing electric service to provides its customers with a copy of the information that NYS DEC is required to produce.

Statement in Support: If enacted, this legislation will set New York on a course to reduce the amount of energy wasted for unnecessary nighttime luminance. This reduction in energy usage will likely reduce the air emissions from fossil fuel-fired power plants--the largest industrial sources of air pollution in the nation.

Here in New York power plant emissions have an enormous effect on public health. The effects on New Yorkers include 1,800 premature deaths; 37,000 asthma attacks; and, 1,200 respiratory related hospitalizations each year.

This legislation ushers in another aspect to the efficient use of energy in New York State. By doing so, it may lessen the significant public health threats posed by power plant air pollution.

Since it may reduce power plant air emissions and their attendant health impacts, the American Lung Association of New York supports this legislation.

For more information contact: Michael Seilback, (518) 465-2013, Ext. 318 or mseilback@alany.org.