



HB 305: Outdoor Lighting - Standards and Use of State Funds
House Environment and Transportation Committee
Terps For Bike Lanes – FAVORABLE

February 12, 2024

Chair Korman and Committee Members,

I am writing to express Terps for Bike Lanes' enthusiastic support for HB0305, which aims to develop outdoor lighting standards that consider energy consumption, the environment, and public health and safety. As the President of Terps for Bike Lanes, a club dedicated to enhancing bicycle infrastructure in and around our campus to create a safe and inclusive environment, I believe that this legislation aligns perfectly with our mission and values.

Our advocacy efforts are grounded in research from esteemed universities, including a study conducted by the University of California, Irvine, titled "The Biological Impacts of Artificial Light at Night: The Research Challenges – An Expert Review." This study highlights the significant negative effects of light pollution on ecosystems, wildlife behavior, and human health. It underscores the urgency of implementing sustainable outdoor lighting practices to mitigate these impacts and safeguard our environment. By requiring the Department of the Environment to develop comprehensive outdoor lighting standards in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including the Maryland Department of Health, the Maryland Energy Administration, and the State Highway Administration, HB0305 represents a critical step towards addressing the detrimental effects of light pollution while promoting energy efficiency and public safety.

Moreover, as an organization dedicated to promoting sustainable transportation options, we recognize the importance of reducing light pollution in creating safe and accessible environments for cyclists and pedestrians. Well-designed outdoor lighting not only enhances visibility for cyclists but also contributes to a more welcoming and secure atmosphere, encouraging more people to choose active modes of transportation.

In addition to its environmental and safety benefits, HB0305 has the potential to address economic disparities and promote social equity. By prohibiting the use of State funds for certain outdoor luminaires in specific areas, the legislation can help prioritize investments in communities that are disproportionately affected by light pollution and lack access to safe outdoor spaces. In conclusion,

Terps for Bike Lanes wholeheartedly supports HB0305 and urges you to consider the positive impact this legislation can have on our environment, public health, and transportation infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Marks

President, Terps for Bike Lanes

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