



Committee: Environment and Transportation

Testimony On: HB452 “Outdoor Lighting - Guidance and Use of State Funds”

Position: Favorable

Hearing Date: February 12, 2025

The Maryland Chapter of DarkSky International urges a favorable report on HB452. This bill improves upon existing requirements for lighting fixtures at state buildings and state facilities, as well as state-funded outdoor lighting at parks and trails. These provisions are consistent with the mission of DarkSky International, to reduce the harmful effects of Artificial Light at Night on ecology, human health, public safety, and climate change.

In 2024, DarkSky Maryland formed as an official chapter of DarkSky International to represent the organization’s cause within the state of Maryland. This involves advocating for outdoor lighting solutions that adhere to DarkSky International’s [Five Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting](#) [1]. Among these are that outdoor lighting fixtures should be targeted, warm-colored, and no brighter than needed. Consistent with these three principles, HB452 requires that new or replaced lighting fixtures minimize light trespass, have a correlated light temperature no greater than 3,000 Kelvins, and use the minimum necessary illumination.

Since 2022, DarkSky International publishes an annual State of the Science report on Artificial Light at Night, drawing from thousands of published papers, theses, and articles, including nearly 5,000 pieces of scientific literature listed in the [Artificial Light at Night Research Literature Database](#). In the 2024 publication of the [State of the Science](#) report [2], DarkSky International documents adverse effects of Artificial Light at Night on ecology, human health, public safety, and climate change. These include disruptions to migratory birds and pollinating insects, production of melatonin in humans, traffic and pedestrian safety from glare, and the energy cost of inefficient lighting.

With HB452, the Maryland state government can lead by example, by ensuring new installations of lighting fixtures adhere to modern standards of environmentalism, safety, and efficiency, as backed by the current state of the science.

Therefore, DarkSky Maryland urges a favorable report on HB452.

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- [1] DarkSky International. *Five Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting*. URL: <https://darksky.org/resources/guides-and-how-tos/lighting-principles/>.
- [2] DarkSky International. “Artificial Light at Night: State of the Science 2024”. In: *Zenodo* (2024). DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.11431447](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.11431447).